

Early Chess by Bill Wall

Chaturanga (Sanskrit: चतुरङ्ग) is an ancient Indian strategy game and may be the ancestor of chess. Chaturanga is first known from the Gupta Empire (319 to 465 CE) in the Punjab area of India in the 6th century CE.

The Sanskrit word “chaturanga” means “four limbed” or “four arms.” This refers to the four ancient army divisions of infantry, cavalry, elephantry, and chariotry (pawn, knight, bishop, and rook)

Chaturanga is said to have been invented by the wife of Ravana, King of Ceylon, when his capital, Lanka, was besieged by Rama. (source: Falkener, p 119)

Chaturanga was played on an 8x8 unchecked board, called ashtapada (Sanskrit for spider). The board was also used in other games in which the use of the dices was combined with a game on the board. The ashtapada was identical with our chessboard. (source: Murray, p. 33)

The pieces in chaturanga were (in Sanskrit) Rajah, the king; Mantra, the counselor; Gaja, the elephant (ancestor of the bishop); Asva, the horse; Ratha, the chariot (or roka the boat); and Padati, the infantryman. Pada meant “foot” and the pawn as a foot soldier. (source: Davidson, pp.8-9)

From the beginning, the pawn always captured diagonally. On reaching the last square, he was promoted to mantra, advancement to the weakest of the major pieces. The mantra, although the ancestor of our queen, was then the least powerful of the officer-pieces. When in modern chess the mantra became the queen, strongest piece on the board, the whole face of the game was changed. (Davidson, p. 9)

During the Sanskrit and Indian period, the game was won either by actually capturing the opponent’s king, or by stripping him of all the other pieces. (Davidson, p. 10)

In the 7th century, Chaturanga was adopted as chatrang (Persian: چترنگ), in Sassanid Persia. The names of the pieces were translated from Sanskrit to Persian. So king became shah; the queen (Mantra) became farzin (counselor); the horse (Asva) became asp; the bishop (Gaja or elephant) became pil; the pawn (Padati or foot soldier) became piyadah. The piece called Ratha or Roka by the Hindus was rendered in Persian as rukh, the word for chariot. (source: Davidson, p. 10)

To avoid accidental and premature game endings, the Persians introduced the practices of warning the player that his Shah (king) was under attack by calling out “shah,” a call from which our word “check” is directly descended when attacking the king. (source: Davidson, p. 22)

The name of the game in most European languages, such as the English word chess, the French echecs, and the Italian scacchi, can be traced back through the Latin plural scaci, to the Arabic and Persian name of the chess king, shah. (source: Murray, p. 26)

The name 'chess' was originally derived from the principal piece which the Persians called the Shah, or king. The word 'mate' comes from the word mat (meaning 'dead'), an Arabic, not a Persian word. (source: Gizycki, p. 13)

Perhaps the first written evidence of the game of chess appears in the classical Sanskrit romance entitled *Vasavadatta* (Sanskrit: वासवदत्ता, *Vāsavadattā*), written by Subandhu (550-620) in the early 7th century. The prose romance tells the popular story of Vasavadatta, the Princess of Ujjayini (daughter of King Pradyota), falling in love with Udayana, King of Vatsa. In describing the rainy season, he wrote, "The time of the rains played its game with frogs for chessmen (nayadyutair) which, yellow and green in color, as if mottled with lac, leapt up on the black field (or garden-bed) squares (koshthika)." (sources: Golombek, p. 11 and Murray, p. 51))

In the 7th century, Arabs conquered Iran and became acquainted with chess. In the world of Islam, chess had to endure a brutal struggle for survival. Some imams tried to ban the game because the Quran forbade the use of images of humans and animals. As a result, the game pieces were changed to abstract shapes. They were made from clay and were inexpensive, which contributed to its spreading among the common people. (sources: Averbakh p. 8)

One of the oldest references to chess is found in the Middle Persian romance called the *Karnamak*, or the *Kar-Namag I Ardashir I Pabagan* (Book of the Deeds of Ardeshir, Son of Papak). It was probably written between 590 and 628, during the reign of Khusraw II Parwiz (531-579), the Sasanian king of Persia. It mentions that the hero is skilled in chess. (source: Murray, p. 26) The hero was Artaxerxes (Artakhshir), the founder of the Sassanian dynasty in the 3rd century AD. The story relates how Artakhshir excelled in ball-play, in horsemanship, in chatrang (chess), in hunting, and in other accomplishments. The idea that Artaxerxes played chatrang is a pleasant, romantic but mythical conception. (source: Golombek, p. 27)

In 625, Banabhatta (Bana) of India wrote *Harsah Charitha* (The Deeds of Harsha) in Sanskrit. In it, he described the peaceful times of northern India and wrote, "Under this monarch, only the bees quarreled to collect the dew; the only feet cut off were those of measurements, and only from Ashtapada one could learn how to draw up Chaturanga, there were no cutting off the four limbs of condemned criminals." (source: Golombek, p. 12) It was the first Indian source that mention chaturanga played on the Ashtapada (chess board). This is a poetic work of the author Bana about the life of the king Harsha, ruler of the northwestern India from 606 to 648 AD. (source: Averbakh, p. 20)

Chatrang eventually evolved into the word shatranj (Arabic: شطرنج; Persian: شترنج) in the Muslim world. This occurred after the conquest of Persia by the Rashidun Caliphate. The change of the name was due to the lack of the ch and ng sounds in the Arabic language.

Abu Hurairah (603-681) a companion of Muhammad and the most prolific narrator of hadith, played shatranj. Other companions, such as Abdullah ibn (ben) Abbas and Absall bin Zubair are stated to have been seen playing shatranj. (source: Murray, p. 191).

Around 640, the second caliph Omar (reigned from 634 to 644) once saw a game of chess (shatranj), inquired what it was, and was told the legend that chess was invented to console a queen after a civil war between her two sons, whereupon he observed that there was nothing illegal in the game because it was linked with war. (source: Eales, p. 22)

In 656, Ali ibn Abu Talib (600-661), cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad, became caliph and disapproved chess for Muslims. He considered shatranj as the gambling game of non Arabs. His main objection was to the carved chessmen and not to the game itself. He said that it was better to handle a flow (fire) until extinct, than touching chess pieces. Sunnite Muslims use chessmen of conventional pattern. Talib's son, Husain ibn Ali, is recorded to have played shatranj with his children, and also to have watched a game and to have prompted the players. (Murray p. 191).

Around 660, Amr ibn al-As (573-664) became familiar with chess. He was an Aab commander who led the Muslim conquest of Egypt.

From 685 to 705, Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan (646-705) reigned as the 5th Umayyad Caliph. He played shatranj and was the earliest Umayyad caliph associated with chess. (source: Murray, p. 193)

In 665, Sa'id ibn Jubayr (665-714), was born in Africa. He later became an Islamic judge. According to ibn Taimiya, Jubair gave the flowing reason for playing chess. He had reason to believe that al-Hajaj was going to appoint him judge. Fearing that the patronage of al-Hajaj would be detrimental to his piety, he took up chess in order to disqualify himself. Jubair was the first person to be mentioned by name that played chess blindfolded. Jubair turned his back on the board and asked his slave to make the moves for him. Later, al-Hajjaj put him to death for taking part in a revolt. (source: Murray, p. 192)

In 710 al-Walid I (668-715), an Umayyad caliph, killed a shatranj player when the player purposely played poorly against him. Walid was playing shatranj with Abdallah ibn Muawiyah when a Syrian visitor was announced. The caliph ordered a slave to cover over the board, and the visitor was allowed to enter. Walid then discovered the visitor was not knowledgeable in Muslim religion, so he uncovered the board and resumed his game. (sources: Murray, p. 193, Forbes, p. 169, and *Four Essays on Art and Literature in Islam* by Rosenthal, p. 86)

In Asia, a game similar to chess spread out, moving from India north and eventaullu giving birth to xiangqi (Chinese chess), trying keui (Korean chess), and shogi (Japanese chess). In all of these versions, the pieces were placed in the intersections of lines rather than inside squares. Later,

chess swept through Southeast Asia piggybacked on Buddhism. Religion, Ghengis Khan, and Western colonization assisted the spread, including into Russia. (source: Hallman, p. 43)

Around 720, al-Farazdaq (641-728) wrote *Naqa-id Jarir*. It mentioned bidaq (foot soldier or pawn) and alluded to pawn promotion. The manuscript gave us enough information to assume that shatrang was generally familiar to his readers. (source: Cazaux p. 16)

In 750, chess came to China from India. Chess is mentioned in the *Book of Marvels* (written about 800, but only made public in 1088). The Chinese made significant changes to the game and called it Siang K'i. It is played on a board of 9 by 10 lines. The pieces (round discs with characters on the upper surface) are placed on the intersection points instead of the squares. There is a river added to the middle. (source: Divinsky, p. 47)

Muhammad ibn Abdallah al-Mahdi (744-785) was the third Abbasid Caliph. He disapproved of shatranj. In 780 he wrote a letter to the people of Mecca to stop playing shatranj, along with nard, playing with dice, and archery. He considered these vanities that lead astray and from the remembrance of Allah. However, chess was played in his court. (Murray, p. 195)

The earliest mention of chess (xiangqi) in Chinese literature dates from the late 8th century. It supports the theory of an Indian origin. (source: Gizycki, p. 12) The earliest chess reference to Chinese chess occurs in the *Huan Kwai Lu* (Book of Marvels), which described the rules of chess. In 1120, Chao Wu King wrote *Ko chi king Yaum*. Which explained chess was a representation of warfare. (source: Murray, p. 123)

In the late 8th century, chess made it to Greece and became the Greek 'zatrikion.' It then reached the Byzantine Empire. Later, zatrikion fell into disrepute in Byzantium as a sort of Bohemian way of passing the time, stemming from Persian debauchery. Persian luxury was a sort of refined lechery. Chess was associated with other notorious features of Persian luxury. (Golombek, p. 28)

In the early 9th century, the Kashmiri poet Rudrata wrote a poem called *Kavyalankara* ("the ornaments of Poetry), describing how all the chess pieces move. It also had the earliest example of a knight's tour.

Harun al-Rashid (763-809) was the fifth Abbasid caliph. He was a chess (shatranj) player who granted good chess players pensions. In 802, Harun supposedly sent Charlemagne a variety of presents, including chessmen. Harun also wrote a letter to Nicephorus of Byzantium (died in 811) in 802 mentioning shatranj. (source: Murray, p. 195)

In 813, an apocryphal story claims that at a critical point in the Siege of Baghdad, Muhammad al-Amin, 6th caliph of the Abbasid Empire, was playing a game of chess against his favorite eunuch, Kauther. A messenger came in during the time he was playing chess, saying the Baghdad's capture was imminent. Al-Amin told the messenger to be patient, he was about to

win his game of chess. Not long after this, al-Amin and his men were captured. The 6th Abbasid caliph, victor in his final chess game, was swiftly beheaded. (sources: Shenk, p. 3 and Murray p. 197)

In 822, chess was introduced at the court of Cordoba, the seat of Spanish Islam, by an influential musician from Baghdad named Ziryab (789-857), also known as Abul-Hasan Ali ibn Nafi. By 950, chess figured prominently in Islamic Spain. Muslims, Christians, and Jews played the game together, the women as well as the men. (source: Yalom, p. 11)

Around 820, Jabir as-Kufi, Rabrab, and Abun-Naan were considered the strongest shatrang players in the Arab world.

Around 840, Caliph al-Mu'tasim Billah (796-842) of Baghdad, also known as Abu Ishaq Muhammad ibn Harun ar-Rashi, authored the earliest surviving chess problem book. (source: Wunning, p. 2)

In 842, Al-Adli al-Rumi (800-870) authored one of the first treatises on Shatranj, called *Kitab ash-shatranj* (Book of Shatranj). He was recognized as the best Shatranj player (aliyat) in the 9th century. In his treatise, he compiled the ideas of his predecessors on Shatranj. The book was lost but the chess problems, endgames, and openings he discussed survived in the works of successors. He also mentioned using a chessboard as an abacus, as a tool to perform mathematical calculations based on the new Indian numerals. He lived during the reign of Caliph Mutawakkil. (source: Shenk, p. 19) He was patronized by a son of Harun ar-Rashid and other Caliphs (al-Wathiq and al-Mutawakki). His name suggests that he came from some part of the eastern Roman Empire, possibly Turkey (source: Hooper p. 2)

In 845, ar-Razi wrote *Latif fi-sh shatranj* (Elegance in Shatranj), which was a book of shatranj problems. He also wrote *Kitab ash-shatrang* (Book of Shatranj).

In 848, al-Adli was defeated in a shatranj match by ar-Razi in front of Caliph al-Mutawakkil in Baghdad.

Al-Adli was the first person to classify chess players. He recognized five classes of players. The highest contained aliya (grandmasters). The second class was called mutaqaribat or proximes. The third class consisted of the highest class could give odds of a pawn. The fourth class, the highest class could give odds of a knight. The fifth class, the highest class could give odds of a rook. (source: Forbes, p. 104)

Al-Adli was the first to categorize openings into positions called tabiya (battle array). Some of the opening names were: the goat-peg, Pharaoh's stones, the old women, the wing or flank opening, the torrent, the sheikh's opening, the strongly built opening, the sword, the slave's banner, the army opening, and the shoulder.

Al-Adli was the first to compile chess problems, called mansubat (position). He divided his collection into won endings, drawn endings, and undecided problems.

Al-Adli may have been the first to use coordinates to record positions and moves in chess. He may have also been the first to discover the knight's tour. His manuscript contained diagrams which represents a knight's tour on a chess board.

Al-Adli described a variation of chess played with dice. This is the earliest instance of the use of die to determine the moves of a form of chess.

The pieces of Shatrang were the Shah (King), Ferzan or Firz (Counselor or today's Queen), Fil (Elephant or today's Bishop), Faras (meaning horse; today's knight), Rukhkh (Rook), and Bidaq (meaning foot soldier; today's Pawn). The sides were any two colors, most often red versus green, sometimes red versus black. (source: Cazaux, p. 9-10)

In the 9th century, Abdallah ibn al-Mutazz (861-908), the son of caliph al-Mutazz, was a keen chess player. When he played chess, he wanted no interruptions. Once a messenger arrived bearing good news that his chief rival, Al-Mustain, had been defeated. The messenger also brought the severed head of Al-Mustain. Al-Mutazz took no notice, but continued playing until he had finished the game. (source: Golombek, p. 33)

In the 9th century, chess came to Russia directly from the East. The names of the men to this day indicate Persian-Arabian origins. The queen, "fyerzh," in Russian is a derivative of "vizier." The bishop is slon (elephant) and the rook is ladia (Boat). There is one theory that chess was brought to Russia by the Tartars. Another theory was that chess was brought into Russia by the Teutonic Knights. (source: Gizycki, p. 16).

In 892 al-Mu'tadid bi-llah (854-902) came to power as the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad. He was a chess player. However, when he discovered that his servants were playing chess rather than doing their duties, they were given several lashes with the whip. (source: Murray, p. 199 and *Gambling in Islam* by Rosenthal, 1975, p. 145).

In 899, the Spanish Benedictine monk Saint Genadio (the Bishop of Astorga) was a founder of a monastery in El Bierzo and often played chess with the monks. He is the first saint to have his name associated with chess. (Averbakh, p. 46)

By 900, chess was introduced into Europe by the Muslims, probably both by the Moors in Spain and by Saracen traders in Italy. It steadily increased in popularity in spite of some initial opposition from the Church, which considered chess a gambling game, and therefore sinful. (source: Wilson, p. 1)

Around 900, the Chinese Book of Marvels (Huan Kwai Lu) was written and contained the first reference to Chinese chess (xiangqi). (source: Wonnig, p. 3)

In 902, al-Muktafi (878-908) came to power as the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad. He took into a favor a shatranj player named al-Mawardi. Then al-Muktafi heard about another shatranj player named Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Yahya as-Suli (880-946), so the caliph arranged a match between the two shatranj players. Around 905, as-Suli defeated al-Mawardi in front of the caliph to become the so-called world shatranj (chess) champion. After al-Mawardi lost, the caliph said to him, "Your rose water has turned to urine." (Murray, p. 199).

In 902, as-Suli became the leading chess player at the Abbasid court in the reign of Caliph al-Muktafi. As-Suli died in 946. His pupil was al-Lajlaj, who died about 970. As-Suli was a member of a Turkish princely family and a successful courtier, who wrote a literary history of the Abbasid caliphate, as well as works on chess. (source: Eales, p. 20)

By the 10th and 11th century, the game was taken up by the Muslim world after the early Arab Muslims conquered the Sassanid Empire, with the pieces largely keeping their Persian names. The Moors of North Africa rendered the Persian term "*shatranj*" as *shaṭerej*, which gave rise to the Spanish *acedrex*, *axedrez* and *ajedrez*; in Portuguese it became *xadrez*, and in the Greek language *zatrikion* (ζατρίκιον). In the rest of Europe it was replaced by versions of the Persian *shāh* ("king"). The game came to be called *lūdus scacc(h)ōrum* or *scacc(h)ī* in Latin, *scacchi* in Italian, *escacs* in Catalan, *échecs* in French (or Old French *eschecs*), *schaken* in Dutch, *Schach* in German, *szachy* in Polish, *šahs* in Latvian, *skak* in Danish, *sjakk* in Norwegian, *schack* in Swedish, *šakki* in Finnish, *šah* in South Slavic languages *sakk* in Hungarian and *șah* in Romanian. Chess spread directly from the Middle East to Russia, where chess became known as шахматы (*shakhmaty*).

About 950, the Arabic historian al-Masudi (900-956), wrote about some observations in chess in India in his manuscript *Muruj adh-dhahab*. He wrote that the most frequent use of ivory was for the manufacture of men for chess. When the Indians played chess, they wagered items or precious stones. Sometimes, when a player had lost all his possessions, he would wager one of his limbs. If a man wagered one of his fingers and lost, he would cut off the finger with a dagger, and then plunge his hand in a small copper vessel filled with an ointment over a wood fire to cauterize the wound. Al-Masudi mentioned the role of Greeks and chess, but said that the invention of chess occurred in India during the reign of the mythical King Balhait (source: Murray, pp. 37 and 134)

In 970, a Greek, named Jusuph Tchelebi played chess blindfolded in Tripoli. The chess men which he used were large. He played, not by naming the moves, but by feeling the chess men and placing them in the squares, or taking them off, as occasion required. This is the first recorded successful blindfold game of chess. (source:Pruen, p. 53)

Around 980, 18 Arabic bone chess pieces were thrown in a Roman grave at Venafrò (between Rome and Naples). They were found in 1932 and examined and carbon-dated in Italian laboratories. The chess pieces are now preserved in the Archaeological Museum in Naples. (source: Monté, p. 5)

In 988, Ibn an-Nadim cataloged all known Arabic books up to that time in his book *Kitab al-Fihrist*. He wrote of the whole succession of leading players who had composed books or manuscripts on chess. Al-Aldi and ar-Razi were players earlier than as-Suli. The two of them played together before the Caliph al-Mutawakkil (847-861). Al-Adli al-Rumi has established himself as the champion player until he lost to the younger ar-Razi. (source: Eales, p. 20)

In the late 990s, a Medieval Latin poem of 98 lines about chess, the *Versus de scacchis* (Verses on Chess) was written and later preserved in the Einsiedeln Monastery, Switzerland. The poem contains both the first European description of chess and the first evidence that the chess queen had been born. (source: Yalom, p. 15) The first 10 lines of the poem describe chess as a means of mental relaxation. It stated that there was nothing bad about the game and that it could be played without dice. The queen was called "Regina" and the king was called "Rex." The bishop was called "Count" and "Curvus," while the rook was called "Rochus" or "Margrave." The pawns were called "Pedes." (source: Averbakh, p. 57)

In the 10th century. Several Arab stories were added to the *Arabian Nights*. One of these stories tells how Caliph Harun al-Rashid paid ten thousand dinars for a slave girl known to be a fine chess player. After he had lost to her three times in succession, he rewarded her by commuting the sentence of a certain Ahmad ibn al-Amin, presumably her lover. (source: Yalom, p. 9)

At the end of the 10th century, legend has it that the Croatian King Svetoslav Surin (Stjepan Držislav) was captured in war. A chess challenge was made and he had the right to rule the Dalmatian towns on the Adriatic if he could beat the Venetian Doge, Peter II, in a chess match. The Croatian king won and was released from prison to return to Croatia. As a thank you for his freedom, the Croatian king decided to choose a chessboard for his coat of arms. A chessboard appears in the Croatian coat of arms. (Shenk, p. 49)

By the year 1000, there were Indian varieties of chess in existence both for two and for four players. In the two-handed game the King and his Minister were added. In the four-handed game, there was only the King and no Minister. The presence of a Minister in a war-game was justified from Sanskrit discussion of his function. (source: Murray, p. 45)

By 1000, chess made its way into the region of ancient Kiev, the oldest of Russian states. Kiev lay on the regularly used Viking trade routes. The Vikings carried chess pieces in the area. (source: Buehrer, p. 24)

Around 1000, the vizier was being replaced by a new piece, the queen. By 1200, she could be found all over Western Europe, from Italy to Norway. (source: Yalom, p. XVII)

In 1005, chess was banned in Egypt by Caliph al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah (985-1021). All chess sets were burned in his territory. The order did not extend to the magnificent chess sets in the palace treasury, made of gold, silver, ivory and ebony. But it was too late to stop the game's

march across North Africa. Muslim players were playing chess in Cairo, Tripoli, Sicily, Seville, and Cordoba. (source: Murray, p. 202)

In the 11th century, the great Persian poet Abul-Qasem Ferdowsi Tusi (940-1020) wrote in *Shahnama* (Book of Kings) how a son invented chess to console his mother, the queen, on the death in battle of his brother, her favorite son. (source: Golombek, p. 10) In one of his poems, he tells of the arrival of envoys of an Indian rajah at the Court of the Persian Shah Chosroes I bringing gifts which include a game depicting a battle of two armies. (source: Gizycki, p. 11) The great epic poem consisted of 120,000 lines.

In the 11 century, Abu 'l-fath Ahmad as-Sinjari was a chess author where three copies of his chess manuscript were discovered in 1951. He wrote a chess manuscript containing 287 mansubat (chess problems). The surviving copies of his manuscript, made in the Tadjik language, indicate that he came from Sistan, a land on the eastern border of Iran. (source: Hooper, p. 1)

In the 11th century, archaeological finds showed that chess was played almost everywhere in Europe. At first, it was a part of the knights' training, but then spread among commoners. (source: Averbakh, p. 8)

In the 11th century, chess reached Bohemia, brought from Italy by wandering Bohemian merchants. Chess also reached Scandinavia. (source: Gizycki, p. 16)

On July 28, 1008, the Catalan Testament was written by Ermengol I, Count of Urgell (974-1010). He wrote, "I order you, my executors, to give my chessmen to the convent of St. Giles, for the work of the church. This was the first reference to chess in the Christian world and in Western Europe. (sources: Gizycki, p. 15 and Murray . p. 405)

The 17 chess pieces found in Urgell were 8 pawns, a rook, 3 knights, 2 bishops and 3 kings. They were all carved out of quartz and had typical abstract Muslim forms. The sets belonged to Ermengol and his brother, Count Ramon Borrell II (who died in 993). After Ermengol was killed during a military campaign against Cordoba, his chess pieces were given to the Benedictine monastery of Saint Egidio, located in the south of France. (source: Averbakh, p. 47)

In 1027, Canute (995-1035), king of Denmark and England, learned how to play chess after a pilgrimage to Rome. In 1027, King Canute (Knut) played a game of chess against Jarl (Earl) Ulf at Roskilde. The game ended with a quarrel and the murder of Ulf. The account was found in the prose *Edda*, written in 1222 by the Icelandic poet and historian Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241). It was the first mention of chess in the Norse lands. (source: Monté, p. 10)

Around 1030, the Benedictine monk Froumund von Tegernsee wrote a Latin poem, 'Ruodlieb.' This was the earliest reference of chess (ludus scachorum in Latin) in German literature. The poem is one of the earliest romances of knightly adventure. A knight was in the company of an enemy king, which he beat at chess. (source: Gizycki, p. 15) The poem tells us something how

chess was played by the nobility at regional courts. The text reveals contacts with the Eastern Empire. (source: Yalom, p. 17)

In 1031, Abu Rayhab Muhammad ibn Ahmad Al-Biruni (973-1050) wrote *India*, which had a description of chaturaji. He was the first to describe the Indian war game for four players played with a pair of dice. For complete victory in the game for 4 players, it was necessary to keep one's king and to capture the opponents' kings. (sources: Averbakh, pp. 20, 23 and Murray p. 58)

In 1058, Countess Ermessind (Ermengaud) willed her chess pieces to the church of St. Giles. The chess pices were specifically said to be made of crystal. (sourcs: Eales, p. 43 and Murray p. 406)

In 1062, the first Italian reference to chess appeared in a letter from the Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia, Peter Damian (1007-1072) to the newly elected Pope Alexander II (1010-1073) reporting that the Bishop of Florence was indulging in secular frivolities such as chess. He assigned the bishop of reading the complete book of Psalms three times, to wash the feet of 12 poor men, and to give to each a piece of money, when he caught him playing the game. (source: Davidson, p. 129)

In the 11th century, France's first woman poet, Marie de France, described a chess scene in her romance poem *Eliduc*. This was a story of a knight named Eliduc who lives in Brittany and is loyal to the king. The king plays chess with a foreign guest. This was one of the first metaphors using the game of chess, a "chess morality." It marked the transition between the Muslim game and its varieties in Western Europe. (source: Gizycki, p. 15)

In 1071, Arnau Mir de Tost listed his collection of 13 chess sets as part of his assets before he went on a pilgrimage.

In 1083, King Vratislav II (1032-1092) of Bohemia presented a chessboard and ivory and crystal chess set as a wedding gift for his daughter Judith and her new husband Wiprecht. (source: Monté, p. 7)

Around 1100, the Persian writer Abul-Qasim ar-Raghib al-Isfahani (1050-1108) wrote a treatise on the ethics of shatranj. The treatise consists of a short introduction, a chapter on the meaning of shatranj, a chapter on the legality of the game, and a chapter on the covenant that the players must follow. The treatise is now in the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books of the Lobachevsky Scientific Library in Kazan. (source: Averbakh, p. 37)

In 1101, Fulcher de Chartes (1059-1130) mention chess as a pastime. This may be the first French reference to chess. Fulcher wrote his chronicle of the Crusade *Gesta Francorum Iherusalem Peregrinantium* (A history of the expedition to Jerusalem) in three books. He asked why did some of the pilgrims amused themselves with chess. He recorded that Kerbogha was playing chess during the siege of Antioch.

In early 12th century, a complete Islamic chess set with abstract figurines and made of deer antlers found its way into a house in Sandomierz, Poland. The set is now in the museum of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. (source: Averbakh, p. 54)

In 1105, Omar Khayyam (1048-1131) wrote the *Rubaiyat*, using with chess references.

Around 1105, Petrus Alfonsi (1062-1125), a Spanish Jew (originally named Moses Sephardi) who converted to Christianity in 1106, wrote *Disciplina Clericalis* (Training School for the Clergy). Here, he listed the seven knightly accomplishments as, “riding, swimming, archery, boxing, hawking, chess, and verse writing.” The advice also was meant for the clerics. (source: Eales, p. 53)

In 1106, Henry I (1068-1135) allowed his brother Robert Curthouse, Duke of Normandy, to play chess while imprisoned for 28 years.

In 1107, French historian Robert de St. Remi wrote *Historia Iherosolimitana*, a Latin history of the First Crusade. He wrote that the crusaders “relied on chess as one of their diversions between battles.”

In 1107, a chess problem was represented in the mosaic floor in the Saint Savino Church in Piacenza.

In 1112, the French Dauphin threw chess pieces at King Henry I after losing.

Around 1115, the Benedictine Honorius Augustodunensis (1080-1140) justified chess-playing by classifying chess under “arithmetic,” as a science, and one of the seven liberal arts. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In 1116, Joannes (John) Zonaras (1074-1130), a former captain of the imperial guard turned monk, issued a directive from Mount Athos, Greece, banning chess (zatrikon) as a kind of debauchery. (source: Golombek 1977, p. 52) He was the first ecclesiastical person to denounce chess on the part of the Eastern Church. He made the following note on the 42nd rule of the Apostolic Canons: “Because there are some of the Bishops and clergy who depart from virtue and play chess ..., the Rule commands that such shall cease to do so.” If the clergy did not cease to play chess, they would be cast out. (source: Murray, p. 166)

Allegedly, around 1119, Henry I (1068-1135) of England played a chess game by correspondence against Louis VI (1081-1137) of France. (source; Divinsky, p. 50) King Henry II (1133-1189) also supposedly played chess.

In 1128, St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), a French abbot, wrote his regulations for the Order of the Knights Templars (military orders). He was the co-founder of the Knights Templars

in 1118. He cautioned that they “should abhor chess as much as dice.” Cards and dice were shunned upon. (source: Gizycki, p. 20)

Around 1129, Fulcher of Chartres (1059-1200) wrote *Gesta Francorum Iherusalem Peregrinantium* (A history of the expedition to Jerusalem). He wrote that the Crusaders played chess. He also reported that when Peter the Hermit came to visit the Turkish General Karbuga during the siege of Antioch (1097-1098), the general was playing chess. (source: Averbakh, p. 53)

In 1130, draughts, a variant of chess, was invented in the south of France using backgammon pieces.

Around 1130, chess arrived in Poland. Polish knights returning from the Crusades, brought it back with them and taught it to their friends. (source: Gizycki, p. 30)

In 1144, Hyde Abbey, Winchester, was destroyed by fire. It contained Chessmen from King Cnut.

In 1148, Kalhana wrote *Rajatarangini*. He wrote, “The King, though he had taken two kings, was helpless and perplexed about the attack on the remaining one, just as a player of chess (who has taken two Kings and is perplexed about taking a third). In this line, the reference is to the game of chaturaji.

In 1148, Anna Comnena (1083-1153) wrote *Alexiad*, an account of the reign of her father, the Byzantine emperor, Alexios I Komnenos (Comnena) (1081-1118). She mentions that he was in the habit of playing chess with members of his court. (source: Eales, p. 42) In the 12th book of the *Alexiad*, she wrote, “He (her father) had certain familiar friends with whom he played chess, a game that was discovered in the luxury of the Assyrians, and was brought to us.” (source: Murray, p. 166)

In 1150, chess was well enough known in Russia to have a native name (shakmaty). Chess was probably introduced in Russia in the late 9th century through the Caspian-Volga trade rout. (source: Murray, p. 380)

In 1157, a Danish king saved himself by using a chessboard as a shield.

In 1167, the Jewish Spanish rabbi, Abraham ibn Ezra (1092-1167), wrote a chess poem in Hebrew that was published for the first time by Thomas Hyde in 1689. The poem was called *Charusim al Sechok Shahmath* (Verses on the game of Chess). He was born in Spain and died on the island of Rhodes. His remains were later removed to Palestine. (source: Brace, p. 9) The poem contained a description of a game of chess between the pieces symbolizing the Ethiopians and the Edomites. The game was conducted according to the rules at the time in Arabian and Spanish lands. (source: Gizycky, p. 23)

In 1173, A French chess manuscript was written that used algebraic notation.

In 1190, King Richard I (1157-99) learned chess while on the Crusades.

In 1195, rabbi Maimonides included chess among the forbidden games.

When the Arabs carried the game across the Mediterranean into Spain and Sicily, chess began to reflect Western feudal structures. The queen replaced the vizier, the horse (horse with a rider) was transformed into a knight, the chariot became a tower (rook), the elephant became a bishop (though in France, it became a jester or fool, and in Italy, it became a standard bearer). Only the king and foot soldier (pawn from the old French paon) remained exactly the same. (Yalom, p. XIX)

Before modern chess, the chessboard was not checkered with black and white squares. Stalemating the opposing king resulted in a win for the player delivering stalemate (mate ahogado). Capturing all the opponent's pieces except the king, called bare king (robado) counted as a win. There was no castling or en passant option. (Shenk, p. 31)

By the 12th century, chess had reached Bavaria, France, and England. By the mid-13th century, chess had reached Iceland. Ever since, Europe has been the cradle of the game's development. (Sharples, p. 4)

The first British reference to chess is the 36-line Latin poem *De Shahiludo*, written by a Winchester monk. It was written in the last decade of the 12th century. The poem uses the words calvus for bishop, regina for queen, rex for king, equestris for knight, rochus for rook, and pedestris for pawn. The poem adds that when the pedestris (pawn reaches the 1st line, it is then called a ferzia. If the game had had Saxon origins, the pawn would have been referred to as "a peasant," not "a pedestrian." (source: Davidson, p. 140)

In 1190, Alexander Neckam (1157-1217), a Winchester monk, devoted a chapter to chess in his treatise *De Naturis Rerum* (On the Nature of Things). He described the game and its rules after the manner of the poetic accounts before going on to condemn it for being passionate and frivolous. Neckam invented a chess variant in which the pawns occupied the first row while the major pieces occupied the second row. (source: Eales, p. 51) Neckham considered chess "a waste of time, and, worse, something that often led to heated brawls." (source: Yalom p. 97)

In 1198 Eudes de Sully or Odo (1150-1208), the Bishop of Paris, wrote the Synodal regulations that forbade the seminarists in having chessmen in their rooms. He also tried to ban chess in Paris. (Gizycki, p. 20) His 29th Synodal Precept read: "Ne in suis domibus habeant scaccos" (Let them not have chess in their homes). (source: Davidson, p. 137)

In 1199, Giraldi Cambrensis, better known as Gerald of Wales (1146-1223), wrote an essay called *Gemma ecclesiastica* (Jewel of the Church). In it, he wrote that he regretted that solving of chess problems had become fashionable among priests. (source: Averbakh, p. 50)

In the 12th century, the Scandinavians were already familiar with chess, which replaced the Scandinavian game “Hnefatafl.” (source: Averbakh, p. 54)

In 1210, Pope Innocent III (1160-1216) was alleged to have written *Quaedam Moralitas de Scaccario* (Innocent Morality). Pope Innocent III once said that if any man plays chess and should quarrel in consequence and kill his opponent, it was not homicide. The *Innocent Morality* was probably written by Johannes Gallensis (John of Waleys), a Franciscan friar. It starts out, “All the world is but a chess board of which one part is white, the other black, being the two states of life and death, praise and blame.” (source: Davidson, p. 146)

In 1212, Ferdinand (Ferrand) (1188-1233) of Portugal, Duke of Flanders, hit his wife Jeanne over a game of chess when she won. In 1213, he was taken prisoner by Philip Augustus at the Battle of Bovines. His wife, taking revenge for his treatment while playing chess, never tried to obtain his release and he remained a prisoner until 1226. (source: Golombek 1976, p. 85)

In 1221, a chess manuscript was copied by Muhammad ibn Hawa ibn Othman. It contained 77 leaves. Its title was *Mansubat li Abi Zakariya Yahya ibn Ibrahim al-Hakim*. (source: Murray, p. 175)

In 1226, Buzzeca, a Sicilian, visited Florence and played two players at the same time while blindfolded, and at the same time he played a third opponent over the board. (source: Schonberg, p. 17)

In 1230, the Icelandic *Snorri Sturluson* or *St Olaf’s Saga* contained chess reference. It was the 1st appearance of chess in the Norse lands.

In 1240, Chess was forbidden to the clergy in Worcester, England.

In 1250, King Louis of France threw a chess set overboard during a trip from Egypt to the Holy Land.

In 1250, the king of Denmark was captured while playing chess.

In 1254, under the influence of the Church and after returning from the Crusades, King Louis IX (1214-1270) of France issued an edict totally forbidding chess as a game that was useless and boring. He did not want people to be intellectually empowered. King Louis IX was the only French king to be made a saint (Saint Louis). (source: Gizycki, p. 20)

In August 1254, William de Wendene of Essex was playing chess (ad scaccarium) with Robert, son of Bernard, a knight of Essex. While playing chess, a quarrel arose between them. Robert, the knight’s squire, intervened to break up the fight. William then struck Robert, the squire, in the stomach with a knife, killing Robert. William then fled the place and took sanctuary in the church of St. Mary at Hulte. (source: Eales, p. 55)

Around 1255, Edward I (Longshanks) was in the middle of a game of chess with one of his knights in a vaulted room when suddenly, he got up and walked away. Seconds later, a massive stone fell from the ceiling on the very spot he had been sitting. The massive stone would have killed him. In 1300, an inventory was made of his possessions, which included a chess set made of crystal and jasper. (sources: Divinsky, p. 59 and *Trivel's annals*, 1845)

In 1255, the Provincial Council of Beziers in France forbade chess.

In 1257, a quarto manuscript of 132 leaves was written by an unknown author. The manuscript was found in Baghdad. It was a copy of a work written between 1150 and 1250. It may have been written in Persia. (source: Murray, p. 173)

In 1260, King Henry III (1207-72) instructed the clergy to leave chess alone.

In 1262, Russian word for chess (shakmatny) was introduced.

In 1263, David de Bristoll and Juliana, wife of Richard le Cordwaner, were playing chess in Richard's house. While playing chess, a quarrel arose between them. David then struck Juliana in the thigh with a sword, killing her. David at once fled. (sources: Eales, p. 55 and *The London Eyre*, 1276, case #151)

In 1271, ruling Dalmatian towns of Yugoslavia was determined by a chess match.

In 1273, the Cotton manuscript is the earliest English collection of chess problems.

In 1274, a decree issued at Abingdon-on-Thames, England, forbade the monks to play chess anywhere within the bounds of the monastery. (source: Yalom, p. 103)

Around 1275, the Dominican friar Jacobus de Cessolis (1250-1322) wrote *Liber de moribus hominum et officiis nobelium super ludo scaccorum* ("book of the customs of men and the duties of nobles or the Book of Chess"). It was published in Lombardy, Italy. He had been using the game of chess as the basis for a series of sermon on morality. By 1550, it had been printed in over a dozen different editions. Several manuscript versions are extant. (source: Wilson, p. 3) There have been 70 copies in Latin, 40 in German, 20 in French, and 10 in Italian. The first German translation was printed in Augsburg in 1477. (source: Buehrer, p. 28) His Latin manuscript is still preserved in the library of the seminary in Padua. In 1493, the first Italian edition was printed at Florence. In 1534, the second edition was printed at Venice. (source: Pruen, p. 58)

In 1283, Alfonso the Wise (1221-1284), King of Castile, had the monks of the monastery of St. Lorenzo del Escorial (near Madrid) create a beautiful illustrated parchment manuscript dealing with chess, dice, and other board games. It is known as the Alfonso Manuscript. It is an important historical document of 98 pages. (source: Divinsky, p. 6) It has 103 chess problems

mainly drawn from older Muslim sources. An archaic form of descriptive notation is used in the manuscript. (source: Brace, p. 16) Two significant departures from the laws of shatranj are noted: the queen's leap and the pawn's double move. (source: Hooper, p. 9) One of the miniatures (small images in the manuscript) depicts future King of England Edward I playing chess with his bride, the Princess of Castile and Leon. The book reflects the relationship between the royal courts of Spain and England. (source: Averbakh, pp. 49-50)

In 1290, the Lombard lawyer, Guido de Baysio, formulated the rules to govern chess.

In 1291, John Peckham, the Archbishop of Canterbury, threatened to put the prior and canons of Coxford in Norfolk on a diet of bread and water unless they desisted from chess playing. (source: Schonberg, p. 17) He wrote: "The Priors and Canons, one and all, had been led astray by an evilly-disposed person named Robert de Hunstaneston, who had actually taught them to play chess, which heinous vice was to be banished, even if it came to three days and nights on bread and water. (source Golombek 1976, p. 55)

At the end of the 13th century, Nicholas de St. Nicholai was the author of a vellum manuscript of 182 leaves containing 290 illustrated chess problems. The treatise was called *Bonus Socius* (Good Companion). It was written in Latin in Lombardy, Italy. It was created as a compendium of all known chess problems. (source: Brace, p. 43)

In 1300, Hugo von Trimberg of Bamberg, wrote, "This world resembles a chessboard. Both are peopled by kings queens, counts (rooks), knights, bishops and peasants (pawns). God leads us through His game in the same way as a player moves his chess figures. The man who surrenders to sinful thoughts will always be held in check by the devil and will lose his soul to mate if he does not know how to protect himself." Chess reflected the divine order of the world. (source: Buehrer, p. 26)

About 1300, a two-square leap of the fers (queen) was permitted. This made the moves of the ferz and alfil (bishop) identical. This represented the first extension of the queen's powers. For a while, the queen even had the leap of the knight in addition to her regular move. This persisted in Turkish and Russian chess until the 18th century. (source: Davidson p. 29)

In 1309, Ponce Hugo, Count of Ampurias, donated his chessmen to the cathedral of Gerona.

In 1320, the Manesse manuscript was written. It was produced in Zurich for the Manesse family. It showed Otto IV of Brandenburg (1275-1325) playing chess with a fine lady. He holds a knight in his hand and she holds a bishop (jester) in her hand. (source: Yalom, p. 75)

In 1323, the Pahlavi (Middle Persian) works mention Chatrang-namak in his *Vicarism-i- chatrang u nihisn-i-newartaxser* (Explanation of the game of chatrang and invention of the game of nard." (source: Murray, p. 151)

In 1330, Giovanni Duvignay, Priest Ospitaliero of S. Jacopo d'Altopascio translated Cessolis's chess book into French.

In 1335, Charles I, also known as Charles Robert (1288-1342), King of Hungary, sent John (1296-1345), King of Bohemia, a chess set (tabulae pro scasis). (source: Murray, p. 420)

In 1337, the Swiss Benedictine monk from the Rhine Palatinate, Konrad von Ammenhausen (1300-1360), wrote a chess morality manuscript called *Schachzabelbuch*. It was a Middle High German verse translation of Cessolis's book. In 1507, it was printed in Constance by Doctor Jacobus Mennel. In 1520, another copy was printed. The work survives in more than 20 manuscripts. (source: Gizycki, p. 24)

In 1340, the Persian 'treasury of sciences' includes 3 chapters on chess.

Around 1340, the Duke of Mazovia was playing chess with a knight named Pierzchala. Pierzchala mated the duke with a rook move. The duke was so amazed that he placed the rook on Pierzchala's crest and granted him an estate. (source: Gizycki, p. 31)

In 1343, Count William IV (1307-1345) of Holland bought at Venice 2 chessboards for himself and of his fellow travelers on their way to the Holy Land as part of a pilgrimage. (source: Murray, P. 450)

In 1347, a translation of the Cessolis chess morality into French was made by the monk Giovanni Ferron.

In 1350, Margiolano of Florence was recognized as the leading blindfold chess player.

In 1369, Chaucer (1343-1400) wrote about chess in his poem *The Book of the Duchess*.

In 1370, a chess manuscript of 157 leaves was written by an unknown author. The title page was too faded to read. The manuscript formerly belonged to a Sultan of Egypt. (source: Murray, pp. 171-172)

In 1374, Timur named his son shah-rukh after playing chess.

In 1375, King Charles V (1337-1380) of France outlawed games of chance (such as dice and backgammon) but spared the noble intellectual exercise of chess. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In the 14th century, a lawyer named Ala'Addin As Tabrizi, better known as Aladdin, was also a chess player. He was at the court of Timur (Tamerlane) the Mongol emperor. A 15th century manuscript in the library of the Royal Asiatic Society in London gives some of his life story. He travelled extensively and beat all comers in chess. He said that he could play four games blindfolded. (source: Divinsky, p. 3) So successful was he as a chess player, in particular as an

odds-giver, that he became known as Ali Shanranji (Ali the chess player). (source: Golombek, p. 9)

In the 14th century, the Germans were calling today's bishop a "sage" (der alte). Within a 100 years, it was called a rifleman (der schutze). Since 1750, it has been called laufer (courier or messenger). This is the name by which the bishop is known in Germany and in the Scandinavian countries today. (source: Davidson, p. 36)

In 1380, William of Wykeleham, founder of Oxford, forbade chess at Oxfor.

In October 1390, John I (1350-1396) of Aragon ordered the bailiff of Valencia to provide his lodging with a chessboard and chess set. (source: Murray, p. 431)

In 1392, Charles VI (1368-1422) forbade chess.

In 1396, in the Chronicle of the Moorish Kings of Grenada, it was related that Meééééééhmed Balba seized upon the throne. He ordered an officer to the fort of Solobrena to put his brother Juzaf, a prisoner there, to death. The officer found the prince playing chess. The officer permitted Juzaf to go on with the game until it was finished, before executing him. However, before the chaess game was finished, a messenger arrived with the news that Mehmed had just died. Juzaf was spared, and succeeded the crown. (source: Pruen p. 20)

In 1397, Louis, Duke of Orleans, purchased an elaborate chessboard.

The nomenclatures and meanings of the pieces have been different in different places and languages. In Sanskrit, the pieces were king, counselor, elephant, horse, chariot, and foot-soldier (for king, queen, bishop, knight, rook and pawn). In Java, the meanings of the pieces were king, lord, counselor, horse, boat, and foot soldier. In Tibet, the pieces were king, tiger, camel, horse, chariot, and child. In Mongolia, the pieces were prince, dog, camel, horse, chariot, and child. In Burma, the pieces were king, general, elephant horse, chariot, and foot soldier. In Thailand (Siam), the pieces were lord, minister, nobleman, horse, boat, and shell. In China, Korea, and Japan, the pieces were general, counselor, elephant, horse, chariot, and foot soldier. (source: Murray, p.28)

By the 14th century, chess had become a favorite pastime for prelates, monks, and nuns. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In 1404, *De Tafel van der Kerstenre*, a text drawing moralistic parallels between chess and real life, was published in the Netherlands by Dirk van Delft (1365-1404). It drew heavily on the work of Jacobus de Cessolis. It is notable for the 24 miniature paintings that it contains. (source: Brace, p. 80)

In 1417, chess was banned in the French city of Amiens. (source: Monté, p. 15)

On the evening of February 21, 1437, King James I (1394-1437) of Scotland was playing chess with his wife when his murderers broke in upon him. (source: Murray, p. 431)

Before 1450, the en passant rule already occurred in France and England. It probably emerged from the old game of chess, endowed with the pawn's double step. In Italy, en passant was not recognized until 1880. (sources: Murray, pp. 464-465 and Monté, p. 361)

In 1474, the English printer William Caxton (1422-1491) translated a chess book by Jacobus de Cessolis (1250-1322). His book was first published in Bruges in 1474. His book was published in 1476 in London and called *The Game and Playe of the Chesse*. In 1480, it was the second book printed in London, England. The first was *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*. In 1480 Caxton reprinted the book, adding 24 woodcuts as illustrations. The book was an allegory of fixed social structures where each rank has its allotted role. (sources: Wilson, p. 5 and Divinsky, p. 40) In 1813, a copy of his book had been bought for 54 pounds. A few years later, it sold at auction for 1,900 pounds. The last reprint was in 1883. (source: Bell, p. 61)

In September 1467, the first recorded chess tournament in Central Europe was held in Heidelberg, Germany, organized by the "Schachzabelspiel" Society. (source: Buehrer, p. 28)

In 1472, a certain author named Meister Ingold, a Dominican preacher, wrote a book called *Das Goldene Spiel* (The Golden Game). It had several chess themes. Chess was associated with "Vain Glory." It was published in Augsburg by Guenther Zainer (1410-1478). He adorned the edition with several chess pieces, including one between a man and a woman on either side of a chessboard. (source: Buehrer, p. 29)

In 1475, the allegorical poem *Scachs d'Amor* (Valencian for *Chess of Love*) was written jointly by 3 authors, Francesc de Castellvi, Bernat Fenollar, and Narcis Vinyoles. The poem is conceived as a chess game between Mars and Venus. It was in 1475 that the weak chess queen, named "dame" in France changed to a powerful chess queen in Spain. (source: Westerveld, p. VII-VIII)

In 1477, Charles the Bold (1433-1477) had at least 7 chess sets and chess boards of great value. One set of chessmen and chess table was made of expensive cypress wood. (source: Golombek 1976, p. 85)

In 1480, Albertus Pictur (1440-1507) painted a mural called Death Playing Chess. It was originally in Taby Church in Stockholm.

In 1485, in Sens, France, a Senonese council punished the clergy for playing chess in public by excommunication. There was some leniency for casual private chess play. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In 1487, a certain Muslim tried to kill King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in their tent. Fortunately for the monarchs, the Muslim hired killer mistook the queen's friend, Beattiz de

Bobadilla, and Alvaro de Portugal for the king and queen since Beariz and Alvaro were in a neighboring tent playing chess. (source: Yalom, pp. 203-204)

Around 1490, a manuscript called *Le Jeu des esches de la dame*, moralisé was written by an anonymous author. It consists of an introduction and 15 chapters. It was probably written by a cleric or a member of a religious order. It is a religious allegory that tells of a lady who plays chess against the devil (Satan or Lucifer). Her soul is at stake. The devil tempts her with notions of love in an effort to force her to make a mistake in playing. It appears in a single manuscript and is now located in the British Museum. It was dedicated to an unnamed lady of noble birth. The British museum bought the manuscript in 1846 of 61 leaves from Techner in Paris. (Monté, p. 31)

In 1492, Ferdinand II of Aragon (1452-1516) was fond of chess. He had been playing chess since he was a boy. Queen Isabella of Castile (1451-1504) was also fond of chess especially against her husband Ferdinand. It had been recorded by Juan de Lucena and Hernando de Pulgar that Ferdinand spent much time playing chess to the expense of his duties. The queen piece of modern chess may have been inspired by Queen Isabella. (source: Monté, p. 23)

In 1493, *Libro di giuoco di scacchi* was published in Florence Italy. This was an Italian version of the Cessolis book, complete with woodcuts. (source: Wilson, p. 7)

In May 1495, Francesc Vicent (1450-1512) published *Libre dels jochs partits dels schacs en nombre de 100*. This was the first treatise about chess using the present-day moves of the queen and the bishop. It was printed in Valencia by Lope de Roca (a German printer) and Pere Trinchet (a Catalan bookseller). No copy of this work has survived, with the last appearance in the early 19th century. It consisted mostly of chess problems with their solutions. (Forbes, p. 133) In 1811, the last trace of a copy was lost after a siege of the Benedict monastery in Montserrat near Barcelona by a French army. The monastery library was burnt down and all books were lost. Vicent's chess book was printed in Gothic type with 100 woodcuts to show the chess diagrams. Vicent contained 75 modern chess problems, 33 old chess problems, and 2 undefined problems. (source: Monté, p. 54)

In October 1497, Luis Ramirez de Lucena (Loo-THAY-na) (1465-1530) published his final version of *Repeticion de Amores y Arte de ajedrez con CL Juegos de Partico* (Repetition of Love and The Art of Playing Chess with 150 Games). This was the first extant chess book and the oldest surviving printed book on chess (older may be Vicent's lost chess book). It was published in Salamanca, Spain during Queen Isabella's reign. It divided the "old" chess from "new" chess. At this time, the queen became the most powerful piece. (source: Yalom, p. XX) By the 20th century, there were 23 copies still extant in libraries and private collections. The book was printed in Gothic type. Lucena dedicated the first part of his book to a beloved senora and friend. The second part, the chess part, was dedicated to Prince Johann (Juan III or John III (1478-1497)), son of King Ferdinand. Juan died on Oct 4, 1497 at the age of 19. The names of the pieces in his book were: rey=king; dama=queen; arfil=bishop; cavallo=knight; roque=rook;

and peon-pawn. (source: Monté, p. 34) Lucena's book is rare. Only 5 copies are known to exist. (source: Golombek 1976, p.98)

Around 1498, a clergyman from Halberstadt was exiled to the village of Strobeck, Germany, in the Harz Mountains. He received such hospitality from the villagers that, after he had been freed and elevated to the rank of bishop, he founded a school in Strobeck with the provision that the schoolmasters instruct the local children in chess. Chess was mentioned in a 1515 deed. For centuries, Strobeck carried on this legacy. (source: Yalom, p. 79)

Lucena's manuscript has 84 pages. The first 56 pages contain 20 games, and the rest of the pages contains 28 problems with diagrams and solutions. The manuscript also had some interesting advice. He wrote, "if you play by day, place your opponent facing the light, which gives you great advantage. Also, try to play your adversary when he has eaten and drunk freely." (source: Schonberg, p. 15) Other rules included that a check is only valid if announced, and the game is touch-move; if you touch a piece, you must move it. (source: Monté, p. 34)

The Lucena position is one of the most famous and important positions in chess endgame theory, where one side has a rook and a pawn, and the other side has a rook. The Lucena position is named after Luis Ramirez de Lucena. However, the position does not appear in his chess book. The earliest preserved discussion of the position is in Alessandro Salvio's book, *Il Puttino*, written in 1634. However, the smothered mate often referred to as Philidor's Legacy is in his book.

In the 16th century, a manuscript now in Perugia, Italy described a new chess piece called "Amazon." This unorthodox piece combined the powers of a rook, bishop, and knight. This piece was sometimes used up to the 18th century as a substitute for the queen. In Vida's famous poem, the queen was sometimes called the Amazon, probably the first use of this word to describe a chess piece. (source: Hooper, p.13) For the rest of the 16th century, "Amazon" cropped up as an alternative term for "chess queen" in various European languages. (source: Yalom, p. 218)

Around 1500, the Gottingen manuscript was written. It is the earliest known work devoted entirely to modern chess. It is a Latin text of 33 pages (leaves). The manuscript received its name because it was discovered in the library of the Gottingen university by Professor Oesterley in 1869. It contains 12 games or openings and 30 problems. It may have been written by Lucena. (source: Monté, p. 74) The text used Latin terms for the chessmen, but the diagrams accompanying the text used initials based on French names. The manuscript appears to have been a conscious attempt to spread chess beyond Spanish borders for French consumption. (source: Yalom, p. 215)

Around 1500, Franciscan friar Luca Pacioli (1447-1517) wrote *De Ludo scacchorum* (On the Game of Chess). He dedicated his treatise to the chess-minded Marquess Isabella d'Este and her husband Francesco III Gonzaga. The manuscript was probably written with the help of his best friend, Leonardo da Vinci. The chess pieces in its illustrations were designed or drawn by

da Vinci. The manuscript has 114 chess problems. Pacioli's manuscript disappeared in 1508. A Latin version was found in 1963. An Italian version was found in 2006. (source: Monté, p. 25)

In 1501, Francisco Vicent was a chess teacher who arrived in Ferrara and was associated with Pope Alexander VI Borgia. (source: Averbakh, p. 70)

In 1502, the Cesena manuscript called *Ludi Varii* was written, which includes Vicent's lost work, *Libre dels jochs partits dels schacs en nombre de 100, ordenat e compost per mi Francesh Vicent*. The Cesena manuscript was discovered by Italian chess bibliophile Franco Pratesi in 1995 at the Biblioteca Malatestiana of Cesena. The chess problems are copied from Vicent's lost book. The Cesena manuscript has at least two handwritings in it. It is written in Italian interlaced with Spanish words (the problems), and Spanish (the solutions). In some examples, there are traces of Latin words. (source: Monté, p. 62)

Around 1505, the *Escorial* manuscript was written. It is preserved in the San Lorenzo monastery of the Escorial. It is a collection of 89 chess problems, in which 16 use the modern rules of chess. It is written in Castilian, Italian, and Latin. (source: Monté, p. 25)

In 1508, Lucas Van Leyden painted *The Game of Chess*.

In September 1509, the first Portuguese expedition arrived off Malacca (modern-day Malaysia). Its commander, Diego Lopez de Sequeira (1465-1530), was playing chess when a Javan from the mainland came on board. The native recognized the game at once. (source: Murray, p. 96)

In 1510, master painter and engraver Lucas van Leyden (1494-1533) painted *The Chess Players* when he was 16 years old. It depicts a game of Courier Chess in progress. Courier Chess was a variant of chess devised in Germany in the 15th century. Play took place on a board of 96 squares (8x12). *source: Brace, p. 73)

In 1512, a Portuguese apothecary (pharmacist) named Pedro Damiano (1480-1544) wrote a book on chess called *Questo libro e da imparare giocare a scachi et de li partiti* (This book is to be learned playing chess and other games). It was published in Rome. In it, he described an opening in which a pawn was sacrificed for the sake of better position (a gambit). (source: Davidson, p. 58-59) The book was rich in problems and opening analyses. It is the earliest Italian printed work on chess. It included advice such as 'when you find a good move, look for a better.' It ran through 8 Italian editions in the 16th century and was translated in French, German, and English. In it, he analyzed what has come to be known as Damiano's Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6) and refuting it with 3.Nxe5. (source: Divinsky, p. 52) The book included 72 problems (though not original). It is the oldest book that definitely states that the square on the right of the row to each player must be white. In 1518, a second edition was printed. In 1524, a third edition was printed. In 1530, a fourth edition was printed. His booklet was the most widely disseminated work of chess in the 16th and the beginning of the 17th centuries. (source: Monté, pp. 85-116) Damiano suggested that chess was invented by Xerxes, which is

why it was known in Spanish as Axedrez. Nearly 50 years passed before another chess book was published. (source: Hooper, p. 101)

In 1513, the Bishop of Alba and poet Marco Girolamo Vida (1485-1566) wrote a popular poem *Scacchia Ludus* (The Game of Chess). The poem explained the origin of chess involving a chess game among the gods (Apollo and Mercury) and the nymph Scacchis (Caissa) who taught it to mortal men. (source: Eales, p. 13) Chess was presented to the Gods of Olympus at the wedding Of Oceanus (the Latin name for the sea-god Poseidon) to the Earth Mother. (source: Buehrer, p.12)

In 1515, Luis Ramirez de Lucena defeated Quintana in a game of chess played in Huesca, Spain.

In 1520, Bona Sforza d'Aragona (1494-1557) was Queen of Poland. She came from Italy and chess gained prestige and popularity during her reign. Chess became a palace game. (source: Gizycki, p. 39)

In 1527, Marco Girolamo Vida wrote the poem *Scacchia ludus*. It made such an impression on the readers that it singlehandedly inspired other authors to create poems about chess.

In 1530, Giulio Campi (1502-1572) painted *The Chess Game*. It is on display at an art museum in Turin, Italy.

In 1533, the French poet Gratien de Pont (1500-1545) wrote, *Les controverses des sexes masculin et feminine*, published in Toulouse in 1534. The poet devised a chessboard, abusing each square by calling 64 nasty and obscene names. In protest of the new rules of chess and the powerful move of the queen that had been added, he wrote an insult for the queen on each of the chessboard squares. (source: Monté, p. 32) Insults included misleading woman, infinite liar, mirror of laziness, wicked, smelly, biting, etc. (source: Yalom p. 219)

In 1536, Christian Egenolff (1502-1555) published *Des Altenn Ritterlichenn spils des Schachzabels, gruentlych bedeutung*. It was an updated chess book by Mennel. Egenolf's book gave the rules of the old game, and added a description of the modern one. He called the modern game of chess the Current or Italian game. It is considered the first German document on chess (source: Golombek 1976, p. 83)

Around 1545, Henry Howard (1516-1547), Earl of Surrey, wrote a poem called *To the Ladie that Scorned her Lover*. The poem was printed in 1557. He mentions the chess piece ferse (queen), checking the king, and giving mate, . (source: Monté, p. 24)

In 1547, Juan de Timoneda (1520-1583) wrote *Ingenio*, the first book on checkers. It was published in Valenica, Spain, the home of many early chess books.

In May 1547, Duke John Frederick (1503-1554), Elector of Saxony, was taken prisoner by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V (1500-1558). Frederick was condemned to death as a

convicted rebel, and was to be beheaded at the Wittenburg gate. While in prison at Worms, Frederick played chess the Ernest IV of Brunswick, his fellow prisoner. He also played chess with his Spanish guards. He was not executed and was released in 1552 after being pardoned by Emperor Charles V on recommendation from several other dukes. (source: Pruett, p. 18)

In 1547, after a visit from abbot Don Juan Sobrino, 29 of the collection of 44 pieces (originally 96 pieces) of the Ager crystal chessmen were missing. Later the 15 remaining pieces came into the possession of a countess in Paris. The pieces then ended up in a museum in Barcelona. Before 1990, the pieces were bought by the emir of Kuwait. (source: Monté, p. 5) The pieces were then plundered by Iraqi soldiers during the Gulf War (Aug 2, 1990 to Feb 26, 1991). The pieces were later returned to Kuwait.

In 1549, Paolo Boi (1528-1598) an Italian chess player, beat Pope Paul III (1468-1549) in a chess match. He was brought up by the church and was supposed to be a leading church member. However, he escaped to Greece, and then to Saragossa, and finally returned to Sicily as a well-known chess player. In 1549, Boi was supposedly offered a Cardinal's hat by Pope Paul III (source: Sunnucks, p. 55). In 1564, he had defeated all the chess players in his home town of Syracuse, Sicily, and had begun his travels through Italy. Pope Pius V (1504-1572) offered him a rich benefice if he had entered the clergy, which he didn't. In 1575, he traveled to Spain and defeated Ruy Lopez and Alfonso Ceron (1535-1600) in a chess tournament in Madrid. King Philip II rewarded him with appointments in Sicily that yielded 500 crowns annually. On his return from Spain, he was allegedly captured by Algerian pirates and sold as a slave. He later obtained his freedom by winning large sums for his master through his skill at chess. Boi was able to play 3 chess games simultaneously. He travelled and played chess in Genoa, Milan, Venice and even as far as Hungary, where he played chess against Turks while mounted on horseback. (source: Divinsky, p. 25) In 1598, he played chess against Salvio at Naples. After his match with Salvio, he was supposedly poisoned by jealous rivals (or suicide by poison) and died. (source: Brace, p. 41) However, he did not die of poisoning. At age 70, he died in Naples of a stomach ache after an exhausting hunt. (source: Monté, p. 211)

In 1551, chess was prohibited in Russia as noted in the *Stoglav*, also known as the *Book of One Hundred Chapters*. This was a collection of decisions of the Russian church council that regulated the canon law in Russia.

In 1560, the first mention of castling appeared in chess literature. Castling originated from the king's leap, a two-square king move added to European chess in the 14th century. In 1560, castling existed in 3 different ways. The current version of castling was established in France in 1620 and in England in 1640. In 1811, Johann Allgaier introduced O-O notation for castling kingside (O-Ol for kingside and O-Or for queenside). In 1837, Aaron Alexandre introduced O-O-O notation for castling queenside. (source: Monté, p. 387)

In 1560, Claude Gruget (1525-1560) wrote *Le plaisant jeu des Eschez renouvelle* and published in Paris. It was a French translation of Damiano's Italian chess book. (source: Monté, p. 105)

In 1560, Etienne Pasquier (1529-1615) wrote *Les recherches de la France*, published in Paris. It mentioned for the first time that when a pawn reaches the 8th rank, underpromotion is allowed and can be replaced by a minor piece. Underpromotion was still not allowed in Naples up to 1634. (source: Monté, p.109)

In 1560, Giovanni Leonardo Di Bona da Cutri (1542-1597) played a chess match with Ruy Lopez in Rome and lost. From 1566 to 1572, he travelled and played chess in Rome, Genoa, Marseille, and Barcelona. He had played many times against Paolo Boi in Italy and they were regarded as being equal in their chess strength. In 1575, he won the first known international master tournament, held in Madrid, therefore becoming the strongest chess master of the time. He returned to Italy and died in Naples in 1597. He is believed to have been poisoned by Jealous rivals. (source: Schoneberg, p. 16) He was nicknamed 'il Puttino' (the boy) while in Rome. In 1587, he was an agent to the prince of Bisignano. (source: Brace, p. 167) Details of his life are recounted in Salvio's chess book, *Il Puttino*, but Salvio's chronology is suspect and some incidents are embellished to show Greco in a favorable light. (Colombek 1977, p. 179)

In 1561, the Spanish Catholic priest Rodrigo "Ruy" Lopez de Segura (1530-1580) wrote *Libro de la invencion liberal y Arte del juego del Axedrez* (Book of the liberal invention and art of the game of chess), one of the first books about modern chess in Europe. Ruy Lopez introduced the word 'gambit,' which derives from an Italian word describing the act of tripping up an opponent in wrestling. (source: Saunders, p. 12) Ruy Lopez wrote that bare king was an inferior (half) win in Spanish chess. Ruy Lopez dedicated his book to Don Garcia Alvarez de Toledo y Osorio (1514-1577, a Spanish general and governor. (source: Monté, p. 42)

In 1562, James Rowbotham translated Gruget's French book into English, with the title, *The Pleasant and wittie Play of the Cheasts renewed*. (source: Monté, p. 105)

Around 1563, Lorenzo Busnardo (1531-1598) was a Jesuit parish priest, who neglected his duties over chess. He was addicted to the game and became a profession chess master, playing for money inside and outside Venice. In 1577, 1581, and 1587, he stood three trials before the Inquisition. (source: Monté, p. 209)

Around 1565, Count Annibale Romei (1530-1590) wrote a chess treatise called *Le fatiche sopra il giuoco degli scacchi*. After Pacioli's problem collection, his treatise is the oldest known work on modern chess written extensively by an Italian author. (source: Monté, pp. 188-189)

Around 1566, Alfonso Ceron wrote a treatise on chess called *De latrunculorum ludo*. No copy of this manuscript is known today.

In 1566, Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) wrote *The Way of Perfection*. She demonstrated her knowledge of chess, even though chess was frowned upon for Carmelite nuns. She chose the chess queen as her model for humanity. Because she used the game of chess as a metaphor for moral progress, she was named the patron of Spanish chess in 1944. She became a patron saint in 1626. (source: Yalom, p. 221)

In 1568, Francisco Borgia (1510-1572), great-grandson of Pope VI and General of the Jesuit Order, enacted a rule that chess was not forbidden for monks, but it should not be praised. (source: Monté, p. 102)

In 1570, rabbi Moses Isserles (1530-1572) of Cracow allowed chess to be played on weekdays and on the Sabbath, but not for money. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In 1572, Ruy Lopez defeated several eminent players in Rome. As a reward, King Philip II gave Ruy Lopez several remunerative church livings and a fine golden chain with a golden rook pendant. (source: Gizycki, p. 29)

In 1575, after the plague of Cremona, Italy, the rabbis declared that all games except chess (ishkaki) were primary evils and the cause of all troubles. All games except chess were prohibited for a year. (source: Murray, p. 447)

In 1575, Paolo Boi (1528-1598) lost a chess game to Scovara that was played in Spain. The game is the only recorded one for Boi, despite playing chess for over 30 years with no other game recorded. Scovara was a servant to the Archbishop of Seville, Spain. (source: Monté, p. 210)

In 1584, M. Gio Domenico Tarsia, published *Il Giuoco De Gli Scacchi Di Rui Lopez, Spagnuolo; Nuovamente tradotto in lingua Italiana* (The Game of Chess by Ruy Lopez, Spagnuolo, newly translated into Italian). It was an Italian translation, published in Venice, of Ruy Lopez's Spanish chess book. The printer was Cornelio Arrivabene and the book was dedicated to S. Iacopo (Giacomo) Buoncompagni (1548-1612). The treatise was a quarto of 214 pages. Tarsia added a sentence that chess was invented in Castile, which does not appear in the Lopez work. (source: Monté: p. 175)

In 1585, the third Mexican Provincial Council allowed chess to be played, but only privately, but not in the company of women or for money. (source: Monté, p. 304)

In 1590, the manuscript known as the *Boncompagni-Ludovisi* manuscript was written by Giulio Cesare Polerio (1550-1610?). The title of the treatise is *Questo Libro é di Giulio Cesare Polerio Lancianese al Suo Comando, e Deli Amici à Pressolt.* It is a collection of 98 openings, 12 endgames, and 38 problems with solutions (mostly from Lucena). The manuscript is dedicated to his patron, Prince Giacomo Boncompagni (1548-1612), the Duke of Sora and the illegitimate son of Pope Gregory XIII. The manuscript is now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. (source: Monté, pp. 194-195)

In 1594, Polerio wrote *Ordini di giuochi degli scacchi indiversi modi*, part of the Manuscripts Italiques No. 948 (8109-5) in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. It is dedicated to an unnamed patron. It consists of 49 openings and 40 problems. This manuscript is an improved and corrected copy of the Toulouse manuscript. It is in Polerio's handwriting. This manuscript mentions the first example of Sicilian Defense (1,e4 c5) for the first time in chess literature. It

was the only new opening discussed in this manuscript. It was casually mentioned by Salvio in 1604 and 1634, and by Pietro Carrera in 1617. The Sicilian Defense derived its name from Gioacchino Greco, who called it *giuoco siciliano*. (source: Monté, p. 255)

Around 1595, chess was introduced in Japan. Its best chess (shogi) player was Ohashi-Sokei (1555-1634). Sokei wrote the oldest existing shogi exercise book, called *Shogizobutsu*. (source: Murray, p. 139)

In 1597, Orazio (Horatio) Gianutio della Mantia published a chess treatise that surpassed all previous chess book in analysis of games and endings. The book was called *Libro nel quale si tratta della maniera di gioucar à scacchi*. It was published in Turin and was 57 pages long. (source: Monté, pp. 278-279) This was the first chess pamphlet by a player from the Italian school. He discussed 6 openings, odds-fiving, and 11 problems. In 1817, it was translated into English by J. H. Sarratt. It discussed different ways of castling, called free castling. (source: Divinsky, p. 75)

In 1598, King James (1566-1625) (James VI of Scotland at the time) had a negative view of chess. He considered it a folly and it was a game the troubled men's heads. There were three things he want to get rid of: tobacco, witchcraft, and chess. (source: Monté, p. 185)

In the 16th century, an unknown Hebrew scribe wrote *Deliciae Regis* (Tractate on Chess). The author described the modern game of chess, not the medieval game. The treatise also described the privilege of castling and that the pawns may, at pleasure, move one or two squares at its starting move. An unusual rule that it described was that the king could not move from his square unless compelled by necessity. (source: Forbes, p. 112-113)

Since about 1600, checkmate was the sole way of winning. Prior to that time, the game could also have been won by annihilation, the taking all the pieces and pawns except the king. Until late medieval times, this was the commoner method of terminating the game. (Davidson, p. 64)

In 1600, English chess allowed a player to promote a pawn on the 8th rank to any piece which had been lost. Prior to that, and in Muslim chess and older European chess, the only promotion possible was to the rank of Vizier (Firzan or Queen). (source: Murray, p. 86)

About 1600, Bhatta Nilakantha wrote a great encyclopedia called *Bhagavantabkashkara*. He wrote an important section on chess at the end of the fifth book called *Nitimayukha*. He describes the Indian game of chess (Krida buddhibalasrita or the intellectual game) and a knight's tour. (source: Murray, pp. 63-64)

In 1604, Alessandro Salvio (1575-1640) wrote a chess book called *Trattato dell'Invention et Arte Liberale del Gioco Degli Scacchi* ("Treaty of the Liberal Invention of the Game of Chess"). It was printed in Naples. This was the first comprehensive chess book. His book went through a host of editions. To the 2nd edition, printed in 1634, he added information on the history of chess. For a long time afterwards, authors inserted fragments of Salvio's book into their own

works. Salvio was considered to be the unofficial world chess champion around 1598, when he defeated Paolo Boi. (source: Gizycki, p. 24) Salvio became a doctor of law. He was a leading member of Carafa's Neapolitan chess academy and Rovito's chess academy. He was known for his blindfold play. Salvio thought that the Egyptians invented chess. He observed that the clergy was not allowed to play games except chess. (source: Monté, pp. 288-289)

In 1606, Giulio Cesare Polerio was esteemed the first player of Rome. In 1606, D. Girolamo Cascio came to Rome and defeated Polerio.

In the early 1600s, Gioachino Greco (1600-1634), called "il Calabrese," was an active chess player. He was from Calabria, Italy. He played chess matches with rivals in Paris, London, and Madrid. While in England, he sold his chess opening analyses to supplement his income. Some of these manuscripts still exist. Greco was likely the strongest player of his time. (source: Saunders, p. 14) In 1619-1620, Greco was living in Rome under the patronage of a number of wealthy prelates. In Rome, he wrote his first four chess manuscripts. In 1621, he earned 5,000 crowns by defeating France's three leading players: Arnault le Carabin, Chaumont de la Salle, and the Duc de Nemours. (source: Golombek 1977, p. 132) In London in 1622, Greco began recording entire games rather than single instructive positions, as it had been the usual manner. By 1625, he had written another 10 chess manuscripts outside Italy. His earliest manuscript was *Trattato Del Nobilissimo Gioco De Scacchi*. Greco was the last chess master of his era to travel all over Europe. He was the most productive and inventive chess author of the classical era. (source: Monté, pp.318-319)

Here are some of the manuscripts written by Greco.

1. *Trattato del Gioco de Scacchi de Gioachino Greco Cusentino. Diuiso in Sbaratti & Partiti*. (1620)
2. *Trattato del nobilissimo Gioco de Scacchi, il quale è rutratto di Guerra & di Ragion di Stato. Diuiso in Sbaratti, Partitti, & Gambetti, Giochi moderni, Con bellissimi Tratti occuli tutti diuersi. Di Gioacchino Greco Calabrese, L'Anno MDCXX*. (1620)
3. Untitled Manuscript (begins "*Primo modo di gioachare a scachi*", and is signed "*gioachimo greco*")
4. *Libretto di giochare a schachi composto da giochimo greco Calabrese di la tera di celico. Gioachino Greco practtica in Casa del Cardinal Saucelli, et Monsr. Boncompagno*. (written before April 1621. Murray describes it as "splendidly executed"^[12])
5. *Trattato del nobilissimo Gioco de Scacchi, il quale è rutratto di Guerra & di Ragion di Stato. Diuiso in Sbaratti, Partitti, & Gambetti, Giochi moderni, Con bellissimi Tratti occuli tutti diuersi. Di Gioacchino Greco Calabrese, L'Anno MDCXXI*. (1621; survives as a French translation from 1622, and as copy made for Staunton in 1854)
6. *The Book of The ordinary games at Chestes. Composed by Joachnio Greco an Italian, Borne in Calabria: written for Nicholas Mountstephen dwellinge at Ludgate in London: Anno Domini 1623* (1623)

7. *The Book of The ordinary games at Chestes. Composed by Joachnio Greco an Italian, Borne in Calabria* (undated; nearly identical to the previously listed manuscript)
8. *The Book of The ordinary games at Chestes. Composed by Joachnio Greco an Italian, Borne in Calabria* (undated; omits some games by Ruy Lopez, that had been present in the previously listed manuscript)
9. *The Book of The ordinary games at Chestes. Composed by Joachnio Greco an Italian, Borne in Calabria: written for Nicholas Mountstephen dwellinge at Ludgate in Longon: Mount-Stephen 1623* (1623; includes games by Salvio)
10. *Trattato sopra la nobilta del Gioco di Scacchi dore in esso contiene en vero ritratto di Guerra et governo di stato diriso in sharatti et partiti et gambetti et giochi orinarii con tratti diversi bellissimi, Composto per Gioacchino Greco Italiano Calavrese.* (1624)
11. *Untitled Manuscript* (1624)
12. *Trattato sopra la nobilta del Gioco di Scacchi dore in esso contiene en vero ritratto di Guerra et governo di stato diriso in sharatti et partiti et gambetti et giochi orinarii con tratti diversi bellissimi, Composto per Gioacchino Greco Italiano Calavrese.* (1625)
13. *Trattato del Nobilissimo et Militare Essercitio de Scacchi nel quale si contengono molti bellissimi tratti et la vera Scienza di esso gioco. Somposto da Gioachino Greco Calabrese.* (undated)
14. *Trattato del Nobilissimo et Militare Essercitio de Scacchi nel quale si contengono molti bellissimi tratti et la vera Scienza di esso gioco. Sompoosto da Gioachino Greco Calabrese.* (1625; a shortened text of the previous manuscript)
15. *Trattato del Nobilissimo et Militare Essercitio de Scacchi nel quale si contengono molti bellissimi tratti et la vera Scienza di esso gioco. Sompoosto da Gioachino Greco Calabrese.* (undated; with the same text of games as the previous manuscript)
16. *Il nobilissimo Gioco delli Scacchi.* (undated)
17. *Le leu des Eschecs de loachim Grez Calabrois* (1625; known from a 1660 French translation with the given title)
18. *Primo mode de Giuoco de partito composto per Gioachino Greco Calabrese* (undated, contains problems only)

In 1609, the first translation of Ruy Lopez's book occurred. It was called *Le Jeu des Eschecs, Avec son Invention, Science et Pratique*. It was printed in Paris by Jean Micard. (source: Monté, p. 178)

Around 1610, Jan Ostrorog (1561-1622) wrote the first Polish chess textbook. The book was actually never published, The manuscript was found in a library in Warsaw before World War II, The library went up in flames during the Nazi invasion. The book used algebraic notation. (source: Gizycki, p. 39)

In 1614, Arthur Saul (1550-1618) published *The Famous Game of Chesse-Play* in London. In its 5th chapter, he mentions castling as an English rule for the first time. (source: Monté, p. 402)

In 1615, a second translation of Lopez was printed in Paris by Gille Robinot. It was 228 pages. (source: Monté, p. 178)

In 1616, Augustus II, Duke of Brunswick (1579-1666), under the pseudonym Gustavus Selenus, wrote *Das Schach- oder Königsspiel* (Chess or the King's Game), subdivided into 8 books. It was published in Leipzig and was the first textbook in the German language. In the first chapter, the Frankish kings Pepin and Charlemagne are mentioned for the first time in chess literature. (source: Monté, p. 180)

In 1617, the chaplain Pietro Carrera (1573-1647) wrote and published *Il Gioco degli Scacchi* (The Game of Chess). In 1597. He met Boi. In 1598, he defeated Don Salvatore Albino. In 1615, he defeated Cascio. He was considered the leading player in Sicily. (source: Monté, pp. 301-302)

In 1622, John Fletcher and Philip Massinger wrote a play called *The Spanish Curate*. A complete chess game was shown on the stage for the first time. The chess game has a sexual resonance. (source: Monté, p. 421)

In 1622, the Italian chess master Gioachino Greco (1600-1634) visited England and played against all the leading players in London. In 1623, defeated Sir Francis Godolphin (1605-1667) and Nicholas Mountstephen (1575-1625), who were among the best English players. He had acquired a small fortune playing chess and selling his chess manuscripts, only to lose it all to English robbers on his travels in England. (source: Golombek 1977, p. 42)

In 1623, Greco introduced the term 'gambit' (Gambetto) into France and England.

In 1624, the playwright Thomas Middleton (1580-1627) wrote and performed a play called *A Game of Chess*. It acted at the Globe Theatre and was bringing in lots of money before it was suppressed after 9 performances by order of King James I. The play was a veiled attack on the Roman Catholic Church and the Spanish crown. He used chess to present and satirise the recent intrigues of the proposed marriage of Prince Charles, son of James I, with the Spanish princess. Middleton was imprisoned because of his play (source: Hooper, p. 10)

In 1628, chess was prohibited in Venice.

By 1630, castling was known in France, Britain, and Germany. By the end of the 17th century, castling in the modern manner was a fixed rule in chess. (source: Davidson, p. 50)

In 1630, the Arcemberski family crest in Poland was created that shows a stag on a chessboard. It was bestowed by the Duke of Pomerania on one of his courtiers. The Duke was playing chess at a hunt when a stag sprang hard by but was soon brought down with three arrows shot by the courtier.

In 1634, A. Salvio published an update of his 1604 book, *Il Puttino*, published in Naples. It was 72 pages long. Salvio says in his 1604 edition that castling was unknown in Spain, but his 1634 edition said the some parts of Spain knew about castling.

In 1634, Giovanni Domenico d'Arminio was the leading player in the chess academy which met in Naples in the house of Judge Alessandro Rovito.

In 1640, Barbier wrote a chess book. It included the Schollars Mate (1.e4 e4 2.Qh5 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.Qxf7 mate). It was called Shepherds Mate in France.

In 1647, the messenger who brought to Charles I the news of his approaching surrender by the Scots to the Parliament, found him seated at the chessboard.

In 1649, a Muscovite governor instructed the town commissioner to stop people from playing chess (among other games). Chess players were to be punished by beating with rods. At least until the 18th century, chess was listed as unacceptable for good Orthodox Russians. (source: Yalom, p. 155)

In 1656, a Venetian report stated that the ambassador from Moscow and his staff did not go to Mass on holidays, but stayed home to play chess. (source: Yalom, p. 152)

In 1656, Francis Beale (1620-1680) published *The Royall Game of chesse-play*. It was the first posthumous record of Greco's games and writings. It contained 94 games. (source: Monté, p. 344)

In 1663, seven chess sets and two chessboards were presented to the Russian tsar Alexis (1629-1676). (source: Murray, p. 383)

In 1669, a new edition of Greco was published. It was the earliest chess work to use *Tour* exclusively for rook. It mentioned that the King's leap was out of fashion and no longer played.

In 1669, Tsar Alexei Mikhailovitch ordered 10 sets of chessmen from the town of Kholmogory, famed for their skill in carving.

In 1680, a chess academy was conducted at Fontainebleau, France by a son of the French General Louis, Grande Conde (1621-1686). (source: Golombek 1977, p. 120)

Around 1680, Benjamin Asperling de Rarogne (1656-1688) authored of the only important text book on chess. He wrote *Traitté du leu Royal des Echets*, which was published in Lausanne, France. Much of the contents is derived from Greco and other early writers. In this treatise, the medieval king's leap makes its last appearance and the openings are classified in an orderly way for the first time. (source: Hooper, p. 20)

In 1683, the term fianchetto was introduced by Dr. Francesco Piacenza (1637-1687) for the moves 1.c4 and 1.f4. (source: Monté, p. 167)

In 1685, several men from Moscow visited Paris. A contemporary French account praised their skill at chess and declared that 'our best players are nere scholars in comparison with them.'

In 1686, the Tsar of Russia liberated from confinement to an island a working man named Marchko Khomyakov, whose sole crime was the abuse of a chessman. He had confused his Tsar and Ferz at a critical point in a game and cursed his Tsar. For this, he was tortured to extract a confession, and sentenced to confinement to an island.

In 1687, Simon de la Loubere (1642-1729), envoy of King Louis XIV (1638-1715) of France, witnessed chess-playing (Makruk) in Siam (Thailand). In 1829, Captain James Low also described chess-playing in Siam. (source: Murray, p. 113)

In 1690, M. Aurelio Severino published *La Filosofia degli Scacchi*.

In 1694, Thomas Hyde (1636-1703) published *De Ludis Orientalibus* (On Oriental Games) in two volumes. The first part of the book, entitled *Mandragorias seu Historia Shahiludii*, deals with the history of chess. This was the turning point of medieval (or earlier) myths about the origin of chess and genuine historical research. His was the first scholarly account of the history of chess, although it confined itself to a study of the game in the East. (Eales, p. 13)

In 1700, B. Asperling published *Traitte du Jeu royal des Echets*.

Starting in 1700, Slaughter's Coffee House (founded by John Slaughter in 1692) was the headquarters of English chess.

In 1701, the first international chess bibliography was written by the Italian abbot Francesco Marucelli (1625-1703). It was found in volume 73 of *Mare Magnum omnium materiarum*. (source: Monté, p. 15)

In 1706, M. Caze wrote *Livre sur les parties de gambit*. It included a number of chess games opening with the King's Gambit.

In 1711, there was a great fire in Frankfurt, Germany. After the fire, a decree stated that none but sick persons might play chess for 14 years.

Around 1713, King Charles XII of Sweden (1682-1718) said that he despised chess. However, while being besieged by the Turks in his camp of Bender, he played chess against one of his ministers. He was later captured and played chess while imprisoned. (source: Forbes, p.112)

In 1718, D. Scipione del Grotto was the leading chess player at the chess academy in Naples. He was a priest from Salerno who turned to chess after losing a large sum of money at cards and chess.

In 1730, an Italian Jesuit priest living in Turin, Giovanni Girolamo Saccheri (1667-1733) was well known for playing 3 or 4 chess games without sight of board and calling back all the moves afterwards. (source: Hooper, p, 45)

In September 1733, there appeared a chess paper in the *Craftsman* magazine. Its title was *A Short Essay on the Game of Chess*. It was a feeble political skit in the Tory interest, couched in the language of chess.

In 1734, Rev. Lewis Rou, pastor of the Huguenot Church in New York, wrote a paper called *Critical Remarks upon the letter to the Craftsman*. This manuscript, now lost track of, is the oldest reference to chess in America.

In 1734, Jonas Gam wrote a manuscript that gave an account of chess in Iceland.

In 1735, Captain Joseph Bertin (1690-1736) published a small volume called *The Noble Game of Chess*, the first worthwhile textbook in the English language. (source: Hooper, p. 38)

In 1737, Philipp Stamma (1705-1755) published *Essai sur le jeu des echecs* (The Noble Game of Chess). In 1745, an English translation was published. His book introduced algebraic chess notation to the English speaking world. Prior to that time, British chess books had used the old Spanish-Italian system of writing out each move. (source: Davidson, p. 152)

In 1740, Carlo Cozio (1715-1780) completed the manuscript of *Il Giuoco degli Scacchi o sia Nuova idea di attacchi, difese e partiti del Giuoco degli Scacchi*, which was published in 1766 in Turin by the Stamperia Reale as two volumes amounting together to 700 pages. His book gave 127 endgame positions, mostly studies of a simple kind. (source: Golombek 1977, p. 101)

By 1743, Philidor was stronger than his teacher, Legal. Up to that time, Legal was the best player in France.

In 1744, Philidor surprised the Parisian players by playing two opponents at one time without sight of the board.

In 1744, Frederick the Great (1712-1786) of Prussia visited the town of Strobeck and played chess there. (source: Golombek 1976, p. 97)

In 1745, Philipp Stamma (1705-1755) published *The Noble Game of Chess* in London. It was an English translation and a revised edition of the French *Essai sur le jeu des echecs*, published in 1737. He added a collection of 74 openings. Stamma described chess in Syria. In Syria and among the Arabs, castling was not allowed, a promoted pawn can only become a queen, and the player giving stalemate wins the game. (source: Murray, p. 356)

In 1747, Hirsch Baruch wrote *Schach-Tractat* which included the modern rules of chess. The 16-page pamphlet was published in Berlin.

In 1747, Francesco Saverio Brunetti (1693-1760?) published *Giuochi delle Minchiate Ombre Scacci, Et altri d'Ingegno* (Games of Minchiate, Ombre, Chess and other games of skill). The

128-page book was published in Rome.

In 1747, the work of Cardinal Melchior de Polignac (1661-1742) *Anti-Lucretius*, a philosophical Latin poem, was published after his death in Paris. It describes a game of chess in 15 lines.

In 1747, Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795) was in Rotterdam. Philidor saw in the possession of a coffee-house keeper, a set of solid silver chess men, which were made for Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736). Philidor said it was the most valuable chess set he had seen. The chess men were made by the celebrated painter Vander Werf, who worked 18 years in carving them. The pawns were "eight Negroes and eight Whites, of various ages." (source: Twiss, Chess, 1787, pp. 3-4)

In 1747, Philidor went to London and started playing chess at Slaughter's coffee-house, St. Martin's lane (the building was demolished in 1844). Philidor was invited by Sir Abraham Janssen (1720-1795), a strong English chess player. Janssen introduced Philidor to Lord Francis Godolphin (1678-1756), Lord Sunderland (1706-1758), Dr. Black, Mr. Cargill, Dr. William Cowper (1701-1767), John Salvador (1716-1786), and Phillip Stamma (1705-1765). [source: The Chess Player's Magazine, June 1867, p. 166]

At Slaughter's he beat Phillip Stamma of Aleppo, Syria. Philidor won 8 games, drew one game, and lost one game. Philidor took Black in every game. None of the games were preserved. Stamma worked for the British government as a translator of dispatches in the Oriental languages. Stamma was the inventor of the algebraic notation system. [source: Murray, History of Chess, 1913, p. 862]

In 1747, Philidor beat Abraham Janssen (1720-1795) at Slaughter's with 4 wins and 1 loss. Janssen was then the best chess player in England. (source: "Biographical Sketch of Philidor," The Saturday Magazine, June 19, 1841, pp. 237-239, and "Philidoriana," The Chess Player's Chronicle, 1879, p. 50)

In 1747, John Manners (1696-1779), the third duke of Rutland, invented a new variant of chess. He used a 10 by 14 squares board and introduced two new pieces. The first new piece was called the Concubine, possessing the power of a rook and a knight. His other new piece was called the Crown Castle, possessing the power of a rook and a king.

Sir Abraham Janssen taught the Duke of Rutland's Chess to Philidor. At the time, the best players in this variant were Janssen, Stamma, Dr. William Cowper, and John Salvador. In less than 3 months, Philidor was to beat them all in this chess variant, even giving them odds of a knight. [source: Murray, History of Chess, 1913, p. 862, footnote 4]

From 1747 to his death in 1795, Philidor was considered the unofficial chess champion of the world.

In 1747, Francis Wheatley (1747-1801), was an English portrait and landscape painter. In 1795,

he painted a scene from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Act V, Scene 1, Ferdinand and Miranda playing chess.

On July 4, 1747, Remi Furcy Descarsin (1747-1793), a portrait painter, was born. He painted *Le Bien Aime*, Portrait of Dr. C. Playing chess with Death.

In 1748 Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795) returned to Holland from London, England, and started writing *L'analyse du jeu des Eschecs* (Analysis of the Game of Chess). Philidor went out to find subscribers for the book before it was published to pay for publishing costs.

On October 18, 1748, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle was signed, ending the War of the Austrian Succession. Lord Sandwich was the chief British negotiator for much of the talks. Lord Sandwich was also a chess player and was one of the early subscribers of Philidor's treatise on chess.

In 1748, Philidor travelled to Aix-la-Chapelle (now Aachen, Germany). About this time, he received an invitation from John Montagu (1718-1792), Lord Sandwich, to visit the English camp at Eyndhoven, a village between Maestricht and Bois-le-Duc in the Netherlands, where he met and played chess with Prince William, the Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765), the son of King George II. [source: Twiss, Chess, 1787, p. 157]

Lord Sandwich, subscribed to 10 copies of Philidor's book. The Duke of Cumberland subscribed to 50 copies! The English army officers subscribed to 119 copies. The moves were written out as full sentences. This was the first real chess book since Greco's manuscripts were compiled and printed in the 1600s.

In 1748 Virginia tavern regulations allowed chess to be played in taverns. [source: Ely, Property Rights in American History, 1997, p. 410]

In 1748, the 8th edition of Edmond Hoyle's Games was published in London. It contained the rules and advice for playing chess.

In 1748, a German translator met Osman Effendi in Vienna. Effendi was an envoy from Tripoli, and played chess with the German translator. Effendi said that in Tripoli, chess was played for a stake (especially among Jews), and that you could win a game of chess by 'baring' the opponent's King. Chess was also played on unchequered cloths. [source: Murray, History of Chess, 1913, p. 356]

In 1748, Voltaire (1694-1778) and Emperor Frederick II (1712-1786) of Prussia played chess by correspondence.

In 1748, Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) played chess for relaxation in Berlin. He wrote to others that most people in Berlin played chess poorly. [Calinger, Leonhard Euler, Mathematical Genius in the Enlightenment, 2016, p. 238]

In 1749, Philidor, age 22, returned to England and had 127 subscribers to his first edition chess book. 433 copies of his *L'Analyze Des Echecs: Contenant Une Nouvelle Methode Pour apprendre en peu de tems a se perfectioner dans ce Noble Jeu* were published in French in London. The book was dedicated to the Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765). Two more French reprints occurred in 1749 and an English version followed in 1750.

The first printing of Philidor's 1749 book contained the list of 127 subscribers (*liste des sourcivans*) and contained only 9 games. The second and third printings did not have this list.

The 1749 French edition of Philidor's book, published in London, has the earliest appearance of Philidor's most famous saying, that pawns are the soul (life) of chess. The first occurrence was on page xix of *L'Analyze des Echecs*. '...les Pions: Ils sont l'ame des Echecs.'

Philidor's chess book was the first chess book that organized the openings, that explained the middlegame, the overall strategy of chess, and the importance of pawn formation. In his book he made the observation that 'les Pions: ils sont l'ame des Echecs' (the Pawns: they are the life of chess). This phrase has become "the pawns are the soul of chess." His book was also the first to examine the rook and bishop vs. rook endgame. It also had some analysis of 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6, Philidor's Defense. From his book:

Philidor — NN, 1749, 1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Bc5 3. c3 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. cxd4 Bb6 6. Nc3 O-O 7. Nge2 c6 8. Bd3 d5 9. e5 Ne8 10. Be3 f6 11. Qd2 fxe5 12. dxe5 Be6 13. Nf4 Qe7 14. Bxb6 axb6 15. O-O Nd7 16. Nxe6 Qxe6 17. f4 Nc7 18. Rae1 g6 19. h3 d4 20. Ne4 h6 21. b3 b5 22. g4 Nd5 23. Ng3 Ne3 24. Rxe3 dxe3 25. Qxe3 Rxa2 26. Re1 Qxb3 27. Qe4 Qe6 28. f5 gxf5 29. gxf5 Qd5 30. Qxd5+ cxd5 31. Bxb5 Nb6 32. f6 Rb2 33. Bd3 Kf7 34. Bf5 Nc4 35. Nh5 Rg8+ 36. Bg4 Nd2 37. e6+ Kg6 38. f7 Rf8 39. Nf4+ Kg7 40. Bh5 1-0.

Philidor's chess book in 1749 did more to increase the popularity and extend the influence of the game than any previous writer.

In 1749, Mrs. Caroline Howe (1731-1814), the eldest sister of Lord Viscounts Richard and William and grand-daughter of George the first Lord, subscribed to Philidor's 1749 edition. She later bought 5 copies of Philidor's second edition in 1777. In 1790, she subscribed to his third edition. Mrs. Howe was a frequent chess opponent to Benjamin Franklin. Both had copies of Philidor's chess book.

In 1749, Philidor visited the home of the French ambassador Gaston Pierre de Levis (1699-1757), the Duke de Mirepoix. The duke was a patron of chess and gave a weekly dinner to the lovers of chess, in which he was also an expert chess player.

In 1749, a chess club was briefly organized in Dublin, Ireland. [source: Twiss, Chess, 1789. P. 264]

In 1750, Domenico Ercole del Rio (1723-1802) anonymously published *Sopra Il Giuoco Degli Scacchi: Osservazioni Pratiche* (About the Game of Chess: Practical Observations).

In 1750, Chevalier Louis de Jaucourt (1704-1779) wrote an article on chess (échecs), which was published in the French Encyclopedia. (source: Twiss, p. 18)

In 1750, *Chess Made Easy: or, the Games of Gioachino Greco, the Calabrian* was published in London with an anonymous author.

In 1750, Phillip Stamma (1705-1755) of Aleppo, Syria, published a second edition of *Essai sur le jeu des Echecs* (On the Noble Game of Chess). It was first published in France in 1737. The 1750 book was written in standard notation and was called German notation. It was not well received in England. [source: Hooper & Whyld, Oxford Companion to Chess, 1984, p.227]

In 1750, a new edition of Marcus Hieronymus Vida's (1485-1566) poem, *scacchi degli scacchi* (On the Game of Chess), was published in Dublin. It was translated in English by Rev. Samuel Pullein (1734-1760) and ran 95 pages. Vida was a bishop of Alba.

In 1750, *The Royal Game of Chess* was published in London. It was an English translation of Gioachino Greco (1600-1634).

In 1750, Rev. Lewis Rou, pastor of the Huguenot Church in New York from 1710 to 1750 died. He was a chess player and compiled chess references. In 1735, Rou wrote a short poem in Latin about chess players at the New York City coffee houses he frequented. It was published in 1744. It mentioned eight other early chess players in New York. The long-lost publication was discovered in the Library of Edinburgh in Scotland in 2003. The title was "A Prospect of Chess-Play and Chess-Players, at the Coffeehouse, New York." The poem is contained in the appendix to a Scottish manuscript of *Poems on Several Occasions* by Archibald Home (1705-1744). [source: British Chess Magazine, Jan 1903, p. 1]

In 1750, Philidor gave chess exhibitions for Frederick the Great (1712-1786) in Potsdam.

In 1750, Philidor played 3 games blindfold in Berlin, winning all 3. [source: Murray, A History of Chess, 1913, p. 862]

In 1750, the King's leap ended in Spain and Portugal.

In 1750, Legal's mate introduced by Legalle de Kermeur (1702-1792) against Saint Brie in Paris. The moves are: 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Nxe5? Bxd1?? 6.Bxf7+ Ke7 7.Nd5 mate.

In 1750, the rule that restricted the pawn's double move ended. [source: Murray, A History of Chess, 1913, p. 393]

In 1750, the mathematician and chess player Abraham de Moivre (1667-1750) died. He earned

his money by playing chess at Slaughter's Coffee House on St. Martin's Lane at Cranbourn Street in London.

In November 1750, the first English edition of Philidor's book, *Chess Analysed; or Instructions By which a Perfect Knowledge of this Noble Game May in a short time be acquir'd*, was published in London by J. Nourse and P. Vaillant. On pages ix and x, it was written, 'I mean how to play the Pawns: They are the very Life of this Game.' The book had no dedication or list of subscribers like his first edition in 1749. The book was reprinted in 1762 and 1791. The English edition was priced at three shillings. The 1749 French edition was priced at 3 shillings, 6 pence (about \$30 in today's currency). The 1750 book was priced at three shillings. [sources: Harding, *British Chess Literature to 1914*, 2018, p. 236 and *General Evening Post* (London), Nov 24, 1750]

In 1750, Philidor frequented the house of the French Ambassador, Gaston de Levis (1699-1757) the Duke of Mirepoix. The duke gave a weekly dinner for chess enthusiasts and Philidor participated in playing a few games. Philidor remained in England for another year until he left for Berlin in 1751. [source: Twiss, *Chess*, 1787, p. 157]

In early 1751, Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795) was at Windsor with Prince William Augustus (1721-1765), the Duke of Cumberland. Philidor was introduced to Dr. Black, a clergyman and a first-rate chess player.

In 1751 Philidor left England for Potsdam, Prussia, by invitation from Frederick the Great (1712-1786), who took great interest in Philidor. At Potsdam, Frederick met Philidor, but never played chess with Philidor himself. Frederick did play chess with other notables, such as the Marquis de Varennes, whom Philidor could beat at knight odds. Philidor was staying at Potsdam with a mistress. While at Potsdam, Philidor took a mistress. [source: Hooper & Whyld, *The Oxford Companion to Chess*, 1984, p. 251]

In 1751, Philidor visited Berlin where he played 3 blindfold games simultaneously for the first time, winning them all. According to some sources, he repeated the feat of playing 3 blindfold games simultaneously several times while in Berlin. These were the first-known three-game simultaneous blindfold exhibition that ever took place.

In July 1751, the mathematician Leonard Euler (1707-1783), a chess player, may have met Philidor during his visit to Berlin, but may have not had an opportunity to play chess with Philidor. Euler did mention Philidor in a June 22, 1751 letter and called him a great player. Euler went on to make the first serious mathematical analysis of the Knight's Tour on a chessboard in 1758. Philidor failed to master the Knight's Tour during his lifetime. Euler mentioned that he owned Philidor's chess book "which certainly contains very beautiful games." [source: "Leonhard Euler: mathematician and chess friend," *ChessBase News*, Nov 6, 2020]

In 1751, the Danish antiquary, Olaus Worm, referenced Icelandic chessmen in his correspondence. [source: Murray, *The History of Chess*, 1913, p. 856]

In September 1751, Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia wrote to William Straham (1715-1785), a printer in London, requesting a copy of the *The Noble Game of Chess*, by Philip Stamma. [source: "From Benjamin Franklin to William Straham, 22 September 1751," founders.archives.gov]

In 1752, the Gottingen manuscript was presented to the University of Gottingen by Dr. Frederick Borner (1723-1761). The Gottingen manuscript is the earliest known work devoted entirely to modern chess. The author is unknown and may have been written as early as 1497. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 783, footnote 9]

In June 1752, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) of Philadelphia wrote a letter to William Strahan (1715-1785), his London bookseller, to cancel a chess book buy (Phillip Stamma's *Essai sur le jeu des Echecs*) because his chess partner, David Martin (1696-1751), died. Martin served as First Rector and Professor of Greek and Latin at the College of Philadelphia. [source: "From Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, 20 June 1752," founders.archives.gov]

In 1752, a French edition of Greco's *The Royall Game of Chess (Le Royal Jeu des Echecs)* was published in London, Amsterdam, and Leipzig. Thomas Jefferson later bought this edition.

In 1752, a new edition of *La plus nouvelle academie universell des jeux* was published by the Academie in Paris, Amsterdam, and Leipzig. It was first published in 1730.

In 1752, Philidor's *L'Analyse des Echecs* was reprinted in London, Amsterdam, and Leipzig. There were English and French versions.

In 1752, *Le plaisant jeu des Eschez* by Claude Gruget was published in London.

In 1753, Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795) returned to London, England and lived at No. 20 Meard Street in Soho for a year. He was more focused on music than chess. He was concerned that his chess reputation might injure him as a musician. [source: Allen, *The Life of Philidor*, 1863. p.36]

In June 1753, the British Museum opened. They displayed several chess sets and chess boards. The rarest was a cloth chess board and pieces from Mongolia. [source: Harris, *A History of the British Museum Library, 1753-1973*, 1998]

In 1753, Carlo Pindemonti published *La Scaccheide* in Verona.

In 1754, a German edition of Philidor's book, *L'Analze des Echecs*, was published in Strasburg. Its title was *Die Kunst im Schachspiel eitn Meister zu warden.....gewiesen nach den neuesten Mustern des berühmten und itzelbenden grossen Schachspielmeisters in England, A. D. Philidor (The Art of Becoming a Master in Chess. Based on the Latest Patterns of the Famous and Great Chess Master in England, A. D. Philidor)*. It was reprinted in 1764 and 1771.

In 1754, Philidor's *L'Analyse des Echecs* was published in Leipzig.

In 1755 Philidor beat Francois Antoine de Legall de Kermeur (1702-1792) in a chess match at the Cafe de la Regence. At the time, de Legal was at the height of his strength. [sources: Allen and von der Lasa, *The Life of Philidor*, 1865, p. 51 and Twiss, Chess, Vol.1, 1787, p. 165]

In 1755, the Italian chess master Giambattista Lolli (1698-1769) lost a chess game to Ercole del Rio (1718-1802), played in Modena, Italy.

In 1755, a chess article appeared in Diderot's *Encyclopedie*, volume 5. It was written by Louis, Chevalier de Jaucourt. The article was 4 pages long about the rules and history of chess.

In April 1755, *A Dictionary of the English Language* by Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) first appeared. It included the definition of chess and its origin.

In 1756, another edition of *Academie universelle des jeux* was published.

In 1756, another edition of Philidor's *Analysis of the Chess* was printed which included his portrait.

In the summer of 1756, JeanJacques Rousseau (1712-1778) passed the time playing chess with his friend, Madame d'Epinay. [source: Vauleon, *Reading Jean-Jacques Rousseau Through the Prism of Chess*, 2019 p. 35]

In 1756, a new edition of Greco's *Essai sur le royal jeu des Echecs* was published in Paris. The previous Paris edition was published 21 years earlier.

In 1756, a book on checkers (draughts) was published in London that had a dedication with a resemblance to Benjamin Franklin's "Morals of Chess" that appeared 30 years later. The book, *Payne's Introduction to Game of Draughts*, mentions that "caution, foresight, and circumspection" are qualities of draughts. Franklin said the same thing about chess. Franklin wrote that chess improves the same qualities, using the same terms.

In 1757, Benjamin Franklin, while in New York, requested from his wife several chess books in his book shelf.

In 1757, Benjamin Franklin purchased an expensive chess set while living in London. It was made of fruitwood and was French in origin. It was a Regency design chess set.

In 1757, Ercole del Rio (1718-1802) played several chess games with Giambattista Lolli. Several positions from their games were used In a future collection of chess problems.

In 1758, chess was mentioned as being played in Iceland and the Faroe Islands. [source: Horrebow, *Natural History Iceland*, 1758, p. 139]

In 1758, the earliest chess pieces made of porcelain were produced at Furstenburg, Germany. [source: *Country Life*, 1949, p. 611]

In May 1759, the Wedgwood Manufactory was founded in England. They created porcelain chess sets.

In September 1759 is the earliest reference to chess in Canada. General Sir John Hale (1728-1896) and General James Wolfe (1727-1759) played chess during the taking of Quebec in 1759. [source: "History of Canadian Chess," www.canadianchess.info]

In 1759, Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) found the closed knight's tour for traversing all the cells of the chessboard only once. In 1759, Euler wrote the first mathematical paper analyzing the knight's tours. He presented his paper at the Academy of Sciences at Berlin. Because of the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), his paper was not published until 1766. [source: Sandifer, *How Euler Did It*, 2007, p. 95]

In 1760, Jean-Jaques Rousseau (1712-1778) played chess with Prince of Conti at Rousseau's apartment at Mont-Louis, Montmorency, winning at least two games. [sources: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 861, *Chess World*, 1865, p.228 and Vauleon, *Reading Jean-Jacques Rousseau through the Prism of Chess*, 2019, p. 35]

In 1760, Denis Diderot (1713-1784) wrote *Le Neveu de Rameau*, (Rameau's Nephew). In it, he describes taking shelter in the Cafe de la Regence and watching chess being played. His book was first translated by Goethe and first appeared in German rather than French. He wrote, "In all weathers, wet or fine, it is my practice to go towards five o'clock in the evening to take a turn in the Palais Royal ... If the weather is too cold or too wet I take shelter in the Regency coffee house. There I amuse myself by looking on while they play chess as skillfully as in Paris and nowhere in Paris as they do at this coffee house; 'tis here you see Legal the profound, Philidor the subtle, Mayot the solid; here you see the most astounding moves and listen to the sorriest talk, for if a man be at once a wit and a great chess player like Legal, he may also be a great chess player and a sad simpleton like Joubert and Mayot."

In 1760, Modense writers wrote that there was a Spanish rule in which a Bare King ending was counted as a half-win. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 833]

In 1760, *Neue Konigliche L'hombre*, was published in Hamburg. It described chess rules and castling as a solitary leap of the King. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 833]

In 1760, the abbe Jean-Joseph-Therese Roman (1726-1787) wrote a poem, *des Echecs*, about chess and Philidor. [source: *The Chess World*, 1868, p. 119]

In 1760, the 12th edition of *Mr. Hoyle's Games*, was published in London, which had a section on chess.

In 1779, George Host, a Danish traveler, wrote a book entitled *Efterretninger om Marokos of Fes*, in which he accounted how chess was played in 1760 in Morocco. [source: *The Chess Monthly*, 1858, p. 59]

In 1761, Edmond Hoyle (1672-1769) published his *Essay towards making the Game of Chess easy learned* in London. It was dedicated to the Earl of Northumberland.

In 1761, Hoyle lectured on chess in London. In 1808, Hoyle's lectures were published as the *Game of Chess, including 37 Chess Lectures*. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 850]

In 1762, Benjamin Franklin delivered a Regency chess set to John Bartram (1699-1777), which Franklin ordered while in London. Bartram is the father of American botany. Franklin and Bartram played chess together. [source: *Chess Review*, January 1962, p. 18]

In 1762, *Chess Analyzed or Instructions By which a Perfect Knowledge of this Noble Game* was published in London.

In 1762, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was introduced to chess by Dr. William Small (1734-1775). Dr. Small was one of Jefferson's teachers at the College of William & Mary.

In 1763, at the age of 17, William Jones (1746-1794) wrote the poem *Caissa*, based on Marco Vida's poem, *Scacchia Ludus*. In the poem, the nymph Caissa initially repels the advances of Mars, the god of war. Spurned, Mars seeks the aid of the god of sport, who creates the game of chess as a gift for Mars to win Caissa's favor. Mars wins her over with the game. Caissa has since been characterized as the "goddess" of chess. Later, Sir William Jones, stated, on the authority of his friend the Brahman Radha Kant that chess was invented by the wife of Ravan, King of Lanka (the capital of Ceylon), in order to amuse him with an image of war, while his metropolis was besieged by Rama. (source: Forbes p. 12-13)

In 1763, Giambattista Lolli (1698-1769) published *Osservazioni teorico-pratiche sopra il giuoco degli scacchi* (Theoretical-practical views on the game of chess), in Modena, Italy. It was the first modern encyclopedia of the openings and arose out of Lolli's revision of the work of Ercole del Rio (1718-1802). (source: Brace, p. 137) His book was the beginning of a period of practical research into the endgame. He gives 315 pages of his book to examples of endgame play. (source: Golombek 1977, p, 101)

In 1764, Reverend Robert Lambe (1711-1795) published *The History of Chess* in London. It is one of the earliest books on chess history, including its variants. He wrote that Philidor was supposed to be the best chess player in the world.

In 1764, the Jesuit Father Adam was forced into exile. He found shelter at Voltaire's (1694-1778) house, who was quite delighted to have an excellent chess player living at his place. [source: Vauleon, *Reading Jean-Jacques Rousseau Through the Prism of Chess*, 2019, p. 25]

In 1764, *A Poem on Chess* was published by James Bettenham in London, and sold by Guy Hawkins.

In 1765, *Das dreyseitige Schachbrett* (The three-sided chessboard) published in Vienna and Regensburg, Germany by E. F. Bader. It was a German translation of a chess book by Filippo Marinelli written in 1722. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 356]

In 1765, another edition of Robert Lambe's (1711-1795) book, *The History of Chess*, was published in London by J. Wilkie.

In 1765, Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) played chess against David Hume (1711-1776) while Rousseau was living in England. In late 1765, Rousseau started writing *The Confessions*, his autobiography. It had several references to chess.

In 1765, the word "stalemate" (not in checkmate but having no legal move) was first being used as a verb. The player who received stalemate won the game. The rule of stalemate being a draw came about 1807.

In 1766, Count Carlo Cozio (1715-1780) published *Il giuoco degli scacchi* (The Game of Chess) in Turin, Italy. It was published by the Stamperia Reale as two volumes and was 700 pages long.

In 1766, Benjamin Franklin's *Morals of Chess* was reprinted by printer James Humphreys (1748-1810).

In 1767, Thomas Hyde's (1636-1702) books on chess history, *De ludis orientalibus*, first printed in 1694 in Latin, was reprinted in Oxford as a second volume of Hyde's collected works.

In 1767, the first instance of the term en passant was used in The Popular Educator, page 64. It describes the move as "this is called 'taking the Pawn en passant,'" or in passing.

In December 1767, Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote a letter mentioning that he wished Monsieur du Peyrou was as good a chess player as his former English host was.

In 1768, Father John O'Brien, the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne, wrote a dictionary published in Paris. It first described chess played in Ireland, calling the game brannumb. It described chess as a favorite game with the old Irish. The chess board was called fitchill. [source: Nugent, *The Irish Invented Chess!*, 2011, p. 18, 35]

In 1768, the Japanese government allowed the best shogi (chess) player in Japan to build a

house called Shogi-tokoro (chess place). The house was used to teach shogi, and the player received an official salary for his services.[source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 139]

In August 1768, James Cook (1728-1779) departed Plymouth, England aboard H.M.S. Endeavour on his first voyage of discovery. He took with him a barleycorn ivory chess set. The set is currently on display at the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Stewart Park, Marton, Middlesbrough.

On November 28, 1768, Jean-Jacques Rousseau testified that not even illness could keep him away from chess. [source: Vauleon, *Reading Jean-Jacques Rousseau through the Prism of Chess*, 2019, p. 41]

In December 1768, the first weekly numbers of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, edited by William Smellie, was published in Edinburgh. It contained an article on chess.

In the 18th century, the chess rules in Italy said that a pawn could be promoted only to a piece which had been lost. So if the player already had a queen, he could not earn another by advancing a pawn to the 8th rank. (source: Davidson, p. 60)

In 1769, Wolfgang von Kempelen's (1734-1804) chess-playing Turk automaton first appeared at Vienna in the court of Maria Theresa (1717-1780), the empress of Austria-Hungary.

On August 18, 1769, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) wrote in his diary that he told schoolteacher James Ogilvie (1773-1820) to buy him a set of chessmen. [source: *Jefferson's Memorandum Books, Volume 1: Accounts with Legal Records and Miscellany, 1767-1826*, p. 455]. He also wrote to neighbor and classmate John Walker (1744-1809) to bring him a chess board, and that Jefferson had chessmen, but wanted a wooden chess board.

In 1769, Domenico Lorezo Ponziani (1719-1796) published *Il giuoco incomparabile degli scacchi* (The Incomparable Game of Chess). Ponziani did not put his name to his work, so it was identified to the Anonymous Modenese. It was the first evaluation of classical games up to that time. Ponziani, along with Ercole del Rio and Giambattista Lolli, were known as the Modernese Masters. (source: Monté p. xv)

In 1770, a chess club was formed at the Salopian Coffee House at Charing Cross in London. It became the new headquarters of the London chess players, overtaking Slaughter's Coffee House.

In 1770, *Essai sur le Jeu des Echecs* was published in Hamburg. This was an edition of Philipp Stamma's (1705-1755) treatise.

In 1770, Wolfgang von Kempelen's Turk was exhibited at Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna at the court of Marie Theresa, the Empress of Austria. The illusion took the form of a man in Turkish costume seated at a desk with a chess board in front of him. Doors and panels were opened up

to show no one was concealed in the desk. Inside were mechanical wheels and pulleys that made it look like the inside of a clock. The Turk was then wound up and set in operation to play chess or perform the knight's tour. Against all comers, it would play chess with its left hand and win 99% of the time.

In 1770, Thomas Jefferson received a chess set from the French court. In February 1770, his home was destroyed by fire, along with most of his books, including his chess books.

In 1770, Voltaire (1694-1778) played chess with the Abbe Roman at Fernay.

In 1770, Philidor considered himself a marchand-mercier, a type of entrepreneur working outside the guild system of craftsmen. That's how he signed his occupation on the baptismal certificates of his children.

On February 26, 1770 Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote a letter to M. de Saint-Germain and mentioned that chess was his only amusement. Rousseau called chess "the touchstone of human intellect." Rousseau did not like to gamble. He played at the casino once while in Venice, but was too bored to go on. He said, "Chess, where one does not bet, is the only game that gives me pleasure."

On June 24, 1770, Jean-Jacques Rousseau returned to Paris. He was often seen strolling in the Luxemburg Gardens, going to the theater, or playing chess at a cafe (Cafe de la Regence or Cafe de Procope or Rue de la Comedie) on the evenings he did not go to the theatre. He visited the Cafe de la Regence many times and may have played Philidor several times. The Cafe de la Regence was a resort of philosophers and literary men, where D'Alembert and Diderot met almost every day. Rousseau would usually order a pitcher of beer and challenge players to a game of chess, and if they did not know how to play chess, then he would challenge them to a game of checkers.

In 1771, Philidor made a brief trip to London and played chess at the Salopian coffee-house on Charing Cross. Philidor also played chess at the St. James Chess Club.

In 1771, chess was used in the theater in *Le Bourru Bienfaisant* (the Beneficent Bear), a French prose comedy. A drawing room has some couches, armchairs, a table, and a chessboard.

In a letter from John Foxcroft on January 14, 1771, John noted that his brother, Thomas, would like to travel with Benjamin Franklin because they could play chess. John Foxcroft wrote "I believe he [Thomas] will be able to afford you some small amusement at that Noble Game of chess, which you so deservedly prefer before all others."

On June 17, 1771, Benjamin Franklin dined with the Bishop of St. Asaph's (Dr. Jonathan Shipley). Franklin wrote, "She (Katherine French) has provided chess players for each day (Wednesday and Thursday)."

On August 3, 1771, Thomas Jefferson wrote to Robert Skipwith suggesting that chess should be played as part of every evening's joy.

In 1771, J. R. Lucotte designed a 'Regence' pattern chess set. The set was illustrated in *Encyclopedie Methodique* in 1771.

In 1771, a re-printed German edition of Philidor's book was published in Strasburg. Its title was *Die Kunst im Schachspiel ein Meister zu werden.....gewiesen nach den neuesten Mustern des berühmten und itzelbenden grossen Schachspielmeisters*.

In 1771, Denis Diderot (1713-1784) encouraged Philidor to go England to secure the publication of an expanded edition of his chess treatise.

In 1772, English historian William visited Moscow and saw chess everywhere he went, including 4-handed chess. This is the first reference to 4-handed chess.

In 1772, a portrait was made of Philidor by Augustin de Saint-Aubin (1736-1807).

In 1772, Philidor returned to London and played chess in the coffee houses. He found Slaughter's coffee house deserted of chess players and found the Salopian coffee-house the new headquarters of the London players. [source: Murray, *A History of Chess*, 1913, p. 863]

In 1772, Parsloe's, a chess club in London, was founded. It closed in 1825.

In 1772, Sir William Jones (1746-1794), published his poems at Oxford, including *Caissa*, which Jones first wrote in 1763.

In 1772, Jean Huber painted a picture of Voltaire playing chess with Father Adam.

In 1773, chess was used in Goethe's play, *Gotz von Berlichingen*. Goethe played chess with his actors.

In 1773, Wolfgang von Kempelen visited Paris and demonstrated the automaton Turk.

In 1773m Carl-Gottlieb von Windisch, a friend of von Kempelen, wrote an account of the Turk in provincial German newspapers.

In 1773, Philidor made a brief visit to London and played chess at the Salopian coffee house at Charing Cross, and the St. James Chess Club.

In November 1773, Philidor revised his *Ernelinde Princesses de Norvege*, and called his new revision *Sandomir, Prince de Danemark* (changing the heroine to the hero and changing to another Scandinavian country). Philidor's music was performed at the Theatre Gabriel at the Palace of Versailles in celebrating the wedding of Count d'Artois, age 16, brother of Louis XVI,

and Maria Theresa of Savoy, age 14. The performance at Versailles was on December 11, 1773. (source: Alain White, "Philidor's Ernelinde," *Our Folder*, Oct 1922, p. 29)

In 1773, Benjamin Franklin played chess with Sir John Pringle (1707-1782), a British physician, in London.

In 1773, Thomas Jefferson bought several chess books, including those by Greco and Stamma.

In 1773, the *Journal Encyclopedique* published an article on the Knight's Tour.

In 1773, a third edition of Philidor's book, *Chess Analysed*, was published in London.

In 1774, the Parsloe's Chess Club was founded in London on St. James Street. It was limited to 100 members. Philidor frequently played chess there as the club raised money for him to stay there for four months. Philidor gave chess lesson at the club for 5 shillings (60 cents) each. [source: Hooper & Wyld, 1984, p. 251]

In May 1774, King Louis XVI (1754-1793) of France came to power after his grandfather died, and continued the pension to Philidor.

In 1774, the oldest Danish chess book was published in Copenhagen. [source: Murray, p. 854]

In 1774, Wolfgang von Kempelen toured Germany with his chess-playing automaton, the Turk.

In 1774, Greco's book, *Le Jeu des Echecs*, was reprinted in Paris.

In December 1774, Benjamin Franklin played two games of chess with Caroline Howe, the sister of Rear Admiral Viscount Lord Richard Howe (1726-1799).

In January 1775, Caroline Howe wrote a letter to Benjamin Franklin, inviting him over her house in London to play chess. [source: Founders Online, letter dated Jan 7, 1775]

In February 1775, Philidor spent his first chess season at the Parsloe's Chess Club teaching chess (and music) for one crown, giving simultaneous and blindfold exhibitions, and playing chess with the regular members of the London chess clubs. He spent his morning hours at musical composition. Philidor sent every penny of his salary to his family back in Paris.

In 1775, Philidor published *Analysis of the Game of Chess; a new edition, greatly enlarged*. It was printed by Elmsley, in the Strand, in London.

In 1775, *Traite des amateurs* was published by three French players — Bernard, Carlier, Leger, and Verdoni. The book ran to four editions, the last in 1873. The authors were members of the Society of Amateurs associated with the Cafe de la Regence.

In 1775, Prince Potemkin and Catherine the Great played chess.

In 1775, George Bogle was sent on a mission to Tibet and discovered that the Tartars who came on a pilgrimage to the Lama were master chess players. Castling was unknown to them. Some of the Tibetans were also acquainted with chess. (source: Murray pp. 368-369)

On Dec 21, 1776, Benjamin Franklin arrived in Paris and stayed in the Paris suburb of Passy. He lived there for 9 years and played chess with his friends and neighbors.

On Dec 25-26, 1776, General George Washington crossed the Delaware River with his 1,400 troops on the way to Trenton, New Jersey. The 1,500 Hessian troops, camped in and around Trenton, were attacked and decisively defeated by the American Continental Army. The Hessians had supposedly let their guard down to celebrate the Christmas holiday, and the British commander, Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall (also spelled Rahl) (c. 1726 — December 26, 1776) himself was misled by John Honeyman, a spy of Washington who convincingly posed as a loyalist. According to one account, Rall was busy playing chess (though some say cards) the night before the attack at the home of Trenton merchant Abraham Hunt when he was handed a note from a local Loyalist who'd seen Washington's forces gathering. As not to be distracted from his game, Rall placed the unread note in his coat pocket. While leading his troops in retreat from the Battle of Trenton, Rall was struck by a musket ball. He died later that day from his injuries. The note informing the general of the attack was later found in his coat pocket. The Battle of Trenton is believed to be the turning point of the Revolutionary War. If Rall had not been playing chess and read the note from a spy, George Washington, Nathanael Greene, Henry Knox, James Monroe, John Marshall (future Chief Justice), Alexander Hamilton, and others may have been killed. [sources: *American Chess Bulletin*, Vol 6, 1909, p.24, *Chess Review*, 1939, p. 157, *Chess Life*, Vol 51, 1996, p. 17]

In 1777, the 2nd edition of Philidor's book, *Analysis of the Game of Chess*, was published in London. The book was published under the patronage of the London Chess Club. [source: Murray, p. 863]

In 1777, Benjamin Franklin was introduced to Madame Anne-Louise Brillon, wife of a French General, and they played 6 games of chess together in Passy, France.

On November 26, 1777, Thomas Jefferson wrote in his account log, "Charge him [Charles F. Eppes] for chess-board to Purdie 3-12 pounds" [source: *Jefferson's Memorandum Books, Volume 1: Accounts with Legal Records and Miscellany, 1767-1826*, p. 455]

In 1778, Giambattista Verci wrote *Lettere sopra il Giuoco degli Scacchi* (Letters on Chess), published in Venice.

In 1778, *Hoyle's Games* was updated to include a longer chess article.

In 1778, an edition of Marco Girolamo Vida's (1485-1566) chess book was translated into English.

On May 27, 1778, John Adams complained in his diary about Benjamin Franklin, writing "He died out almost every night and afterward, played chess."

In 1778, Thomas Jefferson found his way to a chess club in Paris. He was beaten so bad in several games that he never went back.

In 1778, Benjamin Franklin set up a printing foundry in Passy, France. He later reworked his "The Morals of Chess," in 1778 and printed his new version on his new press a few months later. [source: Yale University Press, *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Vol 29]

In 1778, *Walker's Art of Chess Play* was published, giving the rules of chess. In his book, the word "piece" included the pawn.

In June, 1779, Benjamin Franklin published *The Morals of Chess* while in London.

In 1779, a German edition of Philidor's second edition chess book was published by Schak Hiarte Ewald: *Praktische Anweisung zum Schachspiel von Andre Danican Philidor*.

In 1780, Cotter of England first played the Allgaier Gambit, after whom it is sometimes named.

In 1780, Benjamin Franklin met Sir William Jones (author of *Caissa*) and they discussed chess and perhaps played a game of chess between them. (source: Fiske, *The Book of the First American Congress*, p. 335)

In 1780, James Bretherton (1730-1806) painted "A Game of Chess."

In 1780, Johan Christian Ludwig Hellwig (1743-1831) invented Kriegsspiel, a variant of chess.

In 1781, Maria Theresa's successor, Joseph II, ordered Kempelen to refurbish the chess automaton, the Turk, for the entertainment of Grand Duke Paul, the future Tsar of Russia. (source: Hooper 1984, p. 362)

In 1781, Atwood started recording chess games systematically.

In 1782, Domenico Lorenzo Ponziani (1719-1796) wrote *Il Guico Incomparabile Degli Scacci* (The Incomparable Games of Chess). This was a second edition of his book written anonymously in 1769, but he gave his name in the 1782 edition.

In 1783, Benjamin Franklin played the Turk automaton in Paris.

In 1783, Paris started a chess club near the Palais Royal under the patronage of Louis XVIII. The king's brother was a member.

On May 8, 1783, Philidor played 3 games at once without seeing any of the chessboards. His opponents were Count Bruhl, Mr. Bowdler, and Mr. Masers. He beat the Count in an hour and 20 minutes. He beat Mr. Masers in two hours. Mr. Bowdler reduced his chess game to a draw in one hour and 45 minutes. (source: Pruett, p. 55)

In 1784, the oldest Swedish book, *Kort Afhandling*, was published by Konigstedt.

In 1784, Kempelen brought the Turk automaton to England.

In 1784, Moses Hirschel introduced the o-o and o-o-o symbol. (source: Murray, p. 848).

In 1785, Frederick the Great played the Turk automaton.

In 1786, a group of amateurs who frequented the Café de la Regence published *Le Traite des Amateurs* in Paris.

In December 1786, Benjamin Franklin published his "Morals of Chess" in *Columbian Magazine*. It was the first chess writing published in America. It was an essay in praise of chess and prescribed a code of behavior.

In 1787, Daines Barrington (1727-1800) wrote "A Historical Disquisition on the Game of Chess" for the Society of Antiquarians in London. It appeared in *Archaeologia*.

In 1787, Richard Twiss (1747-1821) wrote *Chess* (Volume 1) anonymously in London. It was published by Robinson.

In 1789, Stein published an opening book that analyzed the Dutch defense.

In 1789, Twiss published *Chess* (volume 2).

In 1789, Racknitz built a duplicate Turk automaton and published a book exposing the Turk.

By 1790, there were already more than a dozen books devoted solely to solving the mystery of how the Turk played chess.

In 1790, Sir William Jones wrote "On the Indian Game of Chess." It was published in Calcutta in *Asiatic Researches*.

In 1791, the first book of chess in the Russian language, a partial translation of Benjamin Franklin's *The Morals of Chess*, was published.

In 1793, Eyles Irwin (1751-1817) wrote a letter called "Account of the Chinese Game of Chess." It was published by the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. It stated that chess was invented in China.

In 1794, Dource wrote "European Names of Chessmen" in *Archaeologia*, London.

In 1795, Johann Baptist Allgaier (1763-1823) published the first German chess manual in Vienna. It was called *Neue theoretisch-praktische Anweisung zum Schachspiel*. It was re-issued 7 times up to 1843.

In 1795, the British diplomat Michael Symes (1751-1809) wrote *Account of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ara*. It contained the earliest accounts of Burmese chess. Chess was observed being played in Rangoon. The queen was called Minister. (source: Murray, p. 109)

On August 5, 1795, Philidor played his last known game at age 69.

In 1796, Atwood played chess against Verdoni.

In 1798, Deschappelles took up chess at the Café de la Regence.

In 1798, Morosi made a chess automation and displayed it in Paris.

In 1799, George Atwood (1745-1807) defeated Jonathan Wilson in a chess match in London, scoring 3-0.

In 1799, A. Curnock published *The Theory of Chess* and recommended changing the names of the pieces.

In 1799, Peter Pratt, a weak player, wrote and printed *The Theory of Chess: A Treatise*. It was printed anonymously and sold in London by Samuel Bagster (1772-1851). The author advocated the renaming of the Queen to Minister.

In 1799, Napoleon (1769-1821) played chess with General Beauvoir at Mantua, Italy.

In 1799, Johann Christian Bernstorff Uflacker wrote *Ueber den geist des schachspiels* (About the Spirit of Chess). It was published in Gerstenberg, Germany.

In 1799, Captain Hiram Cox (1760-1799) wrote a paper called On the Burmha Game of Chess compared with the Indian, Chinese, and Persian Games of the same Denomination. He came up with the theory that the origin of chess was a four-player game that originated in India in approximately 3000 BCE. This theory has since been debunked. Cox obtained his knowledge of Burmese chess during his residence at the court of Amarapura.

In 1799, Benjamin Franklin's *Morals of Chess* was republished in London. It was first written in 1779.

In June 1799, James McHenry (1753-1816), Secretary of War, sent George Washington a box containing military figures. He wrote "Perhaps they may occasionally server as a substitute for the chess board." Washington wrote back that he had not had time to examine and compare the figures with the instructions. Washington died on December 14, 1799 after riding for hours in rain and light snow and remained in damp attire throughout dinner. He caught a bad cold and was bled four times (80 ounces, or 40% of his total blood volume). He was 67.

In 1821, Ivan Butrimov (1782-1851) wrote *O Shakhmatnoi Igrie* (On the Game of Chess), the first Russian textbook of chess. It was based upon Western European books. (source: Murray, p. 384)

In 1825, Frederic Villot (1809-1875) presented in Paris a tract on the astronomical sources of the game of chess (*Oripine Astronomipue du Jeu des echecs*), claiming that it had been invented by Egytian priests. Magical setups of numbers and pieces on the chessboard were linked with astrological symbols of the Egyptian calendar. (source: Gizycki, p. 11)

In 1847, the British orientalist Nathaniel Bland (1803-1965) wrote articles on Persian chess. He (mis)attributed the origins of the game of chess to the Persians and not the Indians. In 1850, he gave a paper on Persian chess to the Asiatic Society in London. Bland was the author of several translations of Arabic chess literature. (source: Golombek, p. 33)

In 1850, Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855) published a solution to how many queens can be placed on a chessboard to guard all the squares except the occupied ones. The problem was first proposed in 1848 by Max Bezzel. Then Franz Nauck proposed the problem yo Gauss. Gauss occupied himself with finding positions for 8 queens from which they could not attack each other. He discovered 82 possible positions. There are 92 solutions to the problem. (source: Buehrer, p. 36)

In 1855, the oldest known Muslim chessmen were found by Augustus Bellasis (1822-1872) while excavating the ruined Muslim city of Mansura, in central Pakistan. The city was destroyed by an earthquake in 1030. The pieces are now in the British museum. (source: Bell, p. 58)

In 1860, the linguist Duncan Forbes (1798-1868) wrote *History of Chess*. He wrote on the Indian origins of chess, but he held that the 'original' chess as a game for four players, an idea first advanced by Captain Hiram Cox (1760-1799) at the late 17th century. Forbes published his theories in a series of articles in the *Illustrated London News* in 1854 and 1855, written at the suggestion of Howard Staunton. The Cox-Forbes theory is a long-debunked theory of the evolution of chess. The theory states that a four-handed dice-chess game (Chaturaji) originated in India around 3000 BC. The game then evolved into a two-handed game (Chaturanga). On

account of religious and legal objections in Hinduism to gambling, the dice was dropped from the game, making it a game of pure skill. (source: Eales, p. 16)

In 1889, a grand meeting of all the important chess players in Japan was organized in Tokyo. Over 200 players assembled. The event was promoted by Count Todo. (source; Murray, p. 140)

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